

# GOUVERNEMENT DU CONSEIL D'ÉTAT.

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MMXCII.

*Journal de Daniel Rogers.*

(MARS 1576.)

Nouvelles diverses.

Don Louys de Requesens, Count de Çuniga, liuetenant for the King of Spaigne, dyed at Bruxelles of the pest the 5<sup>th</sup> of marche, greatly repentine himself that he had not embraced the conditions proposed at Breda the sommer before.

Great troubles followed ther in the Low-Countrys; seven cornettes of Italians fledde into Fraunce.

The Spanyardes revolted aboute Bruxell.

The garrysons of Maestricht revolted against the King. Don Julien Romero, as generall master del campo, was sent against them.

The Duke of Arskott, Count Ernest Mansfeld and Rysseghon were chosen to gouvern, but would not embrace the gouvernement, wherfor the Estates gouverned jointly.

The Duk of Savoy dyed and bequethed his countrye to the gouvernement of Count Aiamonte, which is ruler of Millayne. After his death, his sonne was sent in a gally towards Spayne, which greaved the King of Fraunce.

This monneth or about the ende of february, the Prinsses of Aurenge was transported by 100 ruyters towards Saxonye.

The Queen Majestic was offred many hundred thousand dollard at Colleyn by paying but 5 or 5 in the hundred.

This monneth, the Count of Lennox dyed in Englande.

The daughter of Carlo d'Affettadi, espoused unto the Ambassadour of Portugall, Cavagliero Giraldi, was taken and brought to Flusshinge, nether could Mister Cobbam ayde her, who was sent by Her Majestie for that matter. Afterwarde came Mister John Herbert sent from Her Majestie unto the Prince for her. She departed in the Queen's shippe the 9 of aprill towards England.

Capptain Temple came to Hof as though he would sell fysshe, and tooke a capp'ain with certayn souldiers and harquebouzes, and retourned towards Flusshinge.

The Prince sent Collonell Hellin with elf enseignes towards Amsterdam, and as the 26 of marche it should have bene taken by intelligence the Prince had in the towne; but it took not effect the entreprise.

The dissension ended in Genua, unto which towne, when Don Jon d'Austria made his journey out of Calabria, he was revoked by the Great-Master of Malta for that he had certayn newes of the Turckes preparation against Sicilia. . . . .

Martin Ritter, sent unto the Commendador from them of Amsterdam, proved, amongst other losses of late sustayned by the towne, that Amsterdam lost in three monnethes, at the tyme Harlen was wonne, the valew of lxx c. thousand gylders and deducted the losse particularly to with 700 shippes, 16,000 houses burned, 24,000 to have bene spoyled and taken away from them.

There is a great prognosticator in the Low-Country called Portentius, who professed that the Marquis Vitelli should not come a tyme hence to Andwarpe from Duvelande; item that the Commendador should retorne and not live long after. The self same, two year past, profecied that the King of Spayne should die anno 1576 before S<sup>t</sup> John his daye; item that the Prince should overcome his ennemyes and retourne with greater honour than ever he was, into the Low-Countries. Dodonet who cast his nativitie, sayde that he perceavid by his nativitie that he should not retourne into the Low-Countries with credit, but should come in to honnour in farayn countries.

Great bruites ther was that the King of Spaine was deade, and it was written out of Fraunce, Portugal and Englande.

Ther came newes out of Spayne that the King would make the Count of Buren, the Prince of Aurenge his sonne, Archbusshoppe of Toledo, and that Marquis d'Havry should retourne and be made castellan of Andwarpe and governour of the towne.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 251.*)

MMMXCH.

*M. de Champagney à Requesens.*

(LONDRES, 5 MARS 1576.)

Colère de la reine contre les Gueux de mer à la suite de l'arrestation de la fiancée du chevalier Giraldi. — Menaces de représailles. — Entretien avec Élisabeth qui insiste pour avoir une réponse sur son offre de médiation.

Monseigneur, Il est bien vray ce que l'on diet, qu'il n'hy ha mal de quoy bien n'advienne. Pour tant (encoires que je ressens grandement l'ennuy du chevallier Giraldi, pour l'obligation que je doibs aux courtoisies qu'il m'hat usé), si ne veulx-je laisser de compter quant et quant à Vostre Excellence que, ayant este prinse sa femme entre Douvre et Calais par ceulx de Vlissinghes, nonobstant que ung frère de Milord Coban l'accompaignoit de par ceste Royne, et le maire de Douvre, la Royne l'hat ressenti si très-fort qu'elle ha mandé (à ce que j'entens) qu'on arrestât les depputés de Hollande et Zélande et tous les batteaux et marchandises qui se treuveroient appartenans à eulx en ce royaume, jusques à ce qu'on heust réparé ceste injure et restitué le tout jusques à une espingle, pour ce qu'elle ha prins de bien mauvaise part ce que Sainte-Aldegonde luy ha faict respondre qu'il en escriroit, combien qu'il pensoit que ses lettres ne serviroient de rien, puisque ceste prinse estoit de bonne guerre, des subjects de nostre Roy et des biens de leurs ennemis, tellement que je puis bien penser à mes affaires, car ils ont juré, par tout leur bon Dieu, que je ne leur eschapperay au retour, puisqu'ils ne m'ont seeu rattaindre venant icy.

En ces entrefaites, plusieurs autres marchans de ceste ville, en troupe respectable, allèrent aussi hier faire leurs plainctes à ceste Royne de plusieurs autres robberies que ces gallans leur ont faict, tellement que possible ceey servirat à faire mieulx reconnoistre à ces gens le bon voisinage et conduite que se caiche sous la sainte Évangille qu'ils preschent.

L'un m'ha mandé par Corbet, ce matin, de venir cest après-disner en Court, pour veoir les esbats qu'on y représentera. Et ayant esté hier en la maison de l'ambassadeur de France, à tiltre de visiter sa femme, pour plusieurs courtoisies qu'il m'hat usé, ny luy ne m'hat diet chose de substance, ny ne s'ha pas donné grand maigne à me sonder, non plus qu'il ne fit une autre fois en la maison de l'ambassadeur de Portugal, où je me treuvas à son instance. Je le tiens pour ung honneste gentilhomme, et plus soldat que autre chose.

De Londres, ce v<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.     \*

Je viens encoires à temps du palais pour adjouster icy que ceste Royne (si bien quasi tout le temps s'est passé à veoir combattre les ours et taureaux aux chiens, et divises publiques) si est-ce qu'enfin s'estant mise à pormener, et m'ayant prins avec elle à part, elle me demanda si je n'avois encoires response de Vostre Excellence, d'autant qu'elle désiroit d'envoyer, déans deux ou trois jours, celluy qui doibt partir pour l'aller treuver, me priant que je ne voulusse séjourner plus icy, puisque je n'avois nouvelle de Vostre Excellence; mais je luy dis que j'espérois que le mesme courier que j'ay dépesché ne pourroit tarder; et sur cela m'hat-elle encoires donné deux jours de terme, tellement que mal pourroy-je prolonger plus. Elle s'est plainete à moy de l'insulte que les Flissingnois ont fait à la femme du Chevalier Giraldi, et des pilleries qu'ils font sur ses subjects, qu'elle ne veult souffrir, adjoustant ce qu'elle jà me dict autrefois, qu'elle en estoit toutesfois quasi bien ayse, puisque l'on pouvoit veoir combien ceulx-là avoient mal parlé, lesquels avoient asseuré qu'elle estoit de leur party et qu'elle les secouroit. Elle me comptat aussi d'avoir reveu ce qui avoit esté offert aux rebelles à Breda, qu'estoit beaucoup sans faulte, mais qu'il fût ung peu plus clair, et que de vray ils s'estoient fort mescongnus en aucunes demandes. Je luy advouas le dernier, sans me vouloir beaucoup plus enfoncer au surplus.

(Publié par M. Gachard, *Correspondance de Philippe II*, t. III, p. 846.)

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MMXCIV.

*Le Conseil privé à l'amiral lord Lincoln.*

(WESTMINSTER, 5 MARS 1576.)

Ordre de saisir tous les navires du port de Flessingue ou de la Zélande à raison des actes de piraterie commis contre les Anglais.

(*Record office, Dom. papers, Cal.*, p. 517, n° 52.)

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MMMXXV.

*Daniel Rogers à lord Burleigh.*

(ANVERS, 7 MARS 1576.)

Déplorable situation des Pays-Bas. — Mort de Requesens. — Il avait désigné le comte Ernest de Mansfeld pour lui succéder, mais on ne sait si le Conseil d'État ne prendra pas en main le gouvernement. — On assure que don Juan d'Autriche viendra aux Pays-Bas. — Les Espagnols désirent la paix, mais ils ne céderont point en ce qui touche la religion. — Succès du prince d'Orange. — Détails sur les réfugiés. — Nouvelles diverses.

Right honorable, As I sayled towards Flushing, I was driven by tempest to Ostende, and, because the shippe in which I came, begonne to leak, the master not being minded to depart from thence in ten days, I came hether, trustinge to have founde a passage by the Adventurers shippes towards Flushing. Having spent therefore some days here, I talked with diverse of my acquaintance, by which means I have learned somewhat of the present state of the countrie, which I think it my duty to communicate to Your Lordship.

Surely the countrie goeth more and more to ruine. The state thereof is much more miserable than it was at my last being here with Dr Wilson. The King's debts increase daily, and the soldiers are not payed; the husbandman in the country is oppressed, and great contempt groweth against the Spanyards, wherefore they skant can conceave any worthie enterprise, much lesse execute it. Three weeks past, the Commendador had an enterprise in hand against Bril; but, because it took no good effect, the sickness which he had before, begonne to increase. He was troubled for six weeks with a great itche, which ended at the last into buyles and imposthumes, which broke out under his armes and on his back in such a manner that he died of them the 5<sup>th</sup> of this present, about four of the clock in the morning, having seen forty-six years. Wherefore many of them here are greatly affeared least some sedition be made amongst the soldiers for their stipends, which of long time hath not been payed. Diverse of the italians horsemen, to the nombre of 900, which were placed in garrison in Flanders, as at Ipres, Tournay and other townes niglie, for importune demanding of their stipends, were shut forth of the above mentionned townes, which are now fled into France: which thing was done, the Commendador being alive. Wherefore to keep the rest in obedience, he was compelled to sell diverse particular houses of the King his masters, as at Gant, Ipres, Brugge, Machlin and in other places. Since his death, diverse posts

have been dispatched towards Spayne to the intent the King might send one hither auctorised by him to gouverne under him in the Lowe-Countries.

The Commendador, not long before his death, perceaving that he could not live long, sent a post unto Ernest Count of Mansfelde that he might come to the Court to take the charge of the gouvernement, he being sicke, until the King sent another or he recovered his health : since whose death, the Estates and Privie Councell have sent another post unto him, being gouvernour for the King in the duchy of Luxembourch, that he would hast and embrace the gouvernement, as the Commendador had, before his death, admonyshed him. They say, for that he is the most ancient knight of the Toyson d'or, that therefore, *in consimili interregno*, it should be his to gouverne.

There be others which cease not to counsell the Estates to establish their own gouvernement and to provyde for the quietness of their countrie.

Not long since, the King had resolved to send hither don Jon d'Austria as gouvernour, and the Commendador should have been sent to Naples to execute the office of Vice-roy there; and it is yet thought, if the Turke doth not avance himself with his 300 galleys towards Malta, that then Don Jon d'Austria shall be the gouvernour of the Lowe-Countries. He is at this tyme in Vicence in Lombardia, 28 years of age, for he was born in Germany anno N. D. 1547.

Touching the inclination of the Spanyards here to peace, this is most certayne that the most prowdest of them all desireth peace and would be content to accept any condition, so that the Princee would make no mention of religion and that he would return to the King's obedience; for in those two termes they consist, in which they stand stiffly that they will rather loose all the whole Lowe-Countries, than grant that any religion should here be permitted. Wherefore I see not how any peace may be made by way of reconciliation or composition. The Spanyards doubt themselves greatly of loosing these countries and do foresee great and dangerous changes which may happen; and yet do think it meeter for them to trye the worst than to consent that any exercise of religion should here be granted. They trust to recover the country againe hereafter, if it now should be taken away from them.

Some Spanyards, great men, discoursing of these matters, affirme that the Lowe-Countries doo but ruine the kingdom in the tyme of the peace, in robbing Spayne of his gold. Besides that, they say the King is hindred to establish his dignitie and authoritie in India and other isles nigh unto him, because he always must have an eye to the Lowe-Countries. These things I write that Your Lordship may know what extreme cogitations they have and what may be hoped and looked for at the hands of such men, which be thus stiffly bent. The losse of Crimpen hath discouraged many of them; and now diverse come baek from Ziricksea. I think few will remaine there, after they shall understand of the death of the Commendador, which by this time they may be

advertised of. They have stopped the channel of Ziricksea in suche manner that they of Flushing shall not be able to vittayle the town that waye any more. To the intent they might safely bring their shippes unto the head of Ziricksca and not be endamaged by the Flushingers, they have made a chanuel from Vianen in Duvelandt unto the head.

Monsieur de Hierges is here looked for dayly. Julian Romero commandeth the soldiers which be in Bruxell and places nigh. The Commendador could obtain nothing at the hand of them of Bruxell for all the garrisons he sent thither <sup>1</sup>.

As concerning the rebelles, two of the Nortons are about Bruges, and my Lord Morley, with his wife, is in Maestrecht. Some of them are at Cambray; but the most part are at Liege, where is Jennyc, who hath caused there to be printed a poesie of his in verses, for the defence of the Quene of Skottes. The Countesse of Northumberland lieth in an abbey within two miles of Liège : I am credibly advertised that they have their pensions still from the King of Spayne.

News are here further that the Duke of Savoy is departed, who hath appointed the Count of Ayamonte, gouvernour of Myllan, to be the overseer and tutor of his son and countryes, after whose death the Councellours of Piémont and Savoy sent their younge prince towards Spayne, with which matter the French King and Quene-Mother are greuously offended.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of this month was appoynted for the coronation of the Vaywood of Transylvania into the kingdom of Poland; but the Duke of Saxony and the Marquis of Brandenbouch will introduct the Emperour into the sayd kingdom with 9000 reytters and 6000 footmen, and therefore have made defence in their countries that none of their subjects serve this year any forrayn prince : by which means I understand that they have greatly hindred the leavey of reytters, which the Count of Barby and Mandeslow made for the French King in Germany.

From Andwerpe, in post hast, this 7<sup>th</sup> of marche 1575.

(*Archives d'Hatfield; Record office, Cal.*, n° 656. — Publié par Murdin, p. 292.)

<sup>1</sup> Requesens avait eu de nombreuses difficultés avec les États de Brabant, qui ne cessaient d'invoquer leurs privilèges, et notamment la Joyeuse-Entrée. Ils demandaient que toutes les affaires civiles et criminelles fussent déferées au Conseil de Brabant; qu'il ne fût permis à aucun Espagnol d'exercer une charge publique; qu'on ne levât d'autres impôts que ceux qu'ils avaient votés.

La résistance des États de Brabant n'est pas moins vive en ce qui touche le paiement des gens de guerre; mais Requesens leur fait observer que, s'il n'est pourvu au paiement régulier de la solde qui est due aux soldats, on ne pourra point se plaindre qu'ils vivent aux dépens des habitants.

MMMXXVI.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(7 MARS 1576.)

Explications et excuses présentées par Paul Buys sur le fait de guerre que l'on reproche à un navire de Flessingue.

Here was with me on to day from Pawll Buis, Mi right honorable good lord, desires that Your Lordship shold understand the truth of this matter of Giraldos wife taking, werby you shall perceve that a grett fawtt was in the shippe of Dover, that first passed by theme with certain stuffe and passengers and by whom the said Flushingers were well ny provoked to do that they did, and that therefore it deserves the better constructyon nott if it had bin used att the sea; butt, if the occasion had bin offred in ani towne, it woldd have bred a gretter qwarell, for the sayd Flussingers, sending a board their bots to se if they caryd any spanish wares or had ani enmyes of theirs passengers with theme, being com aboard sodenly, cam up from under the hatches att the master's calls a 50 or 40 strangers passengers and caste the Flussingers into the seas, which being sene by the rest dyd so kynd all theme as they were essily transported even with fury to boord the other shippes, and to do as they dyd, yett caryeng that respect to Her Majesty as that they used no violence to ani, though *en sang chaud*, and do humbly cary this further respect to Her Majesty that ani thing that Her Majesty will commande for the order of their restoryng that ar taken, shalbe obeyed, hoping that it shall no worse be interpreted of than, as their menyng is to be dutifull to Her Majesty in ani thing that they be hable, and so wold they expresse it by effect, being verey sory that this accident hapined, for that they do mene to intertayne good amitye with the King of Portingall's and all his subjectes, with whom they have traffyck, and nott to give occasion of offence to the lest of theme, butt to confirme the amitye with theme by the straitest and surest waye they might, to the which Your Lordship might serve for a wytnesse and a qwallefier (yf ye wold so vowchesave) that this hard occasion might be the begynneng of a gretter good bettween theme, and Your Lordship be the awther of it, as though it proceded from your self, and they again do humble them selves to Your Lordship to do you all the service they can, and will travayll presently to reduce thinges to that order that may be well liked of, wherof it may plese Your Lordship that I may have som answer from you in wryteng, seing mi sycknes will nott suffer me to waytt uppon you as I woldd, wherwith remember mi motion for Julio, and I beseche



Your Lordship to give your best advise to this that I have moved you of on their behalf.

The partyes for the warde have their order from Bosswell, as Your Lordship appointed, and I have contented mi man with a good portyon of that I had, only to satisfye and obeye Your Lordship, though in eqwity the bargain was his, wherwith very humbly I take mi leve.

From Rederosse strett, the vii<sup>th</sup> of marche 1575.

(Record office, Cal., n° 657.)

MMMXCVII.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(8 MARS 1576.)

Il sollicite en cette affaire, pour les marins de Flessingue, l'appui de lord Burleigh.

I presume, Mi right honorable good Lordship, to putt you in remembrans of that which I wrytt unto Your Lordship att large yesterday, presuming the more that you will waye and consider the thing according to your wisdom to help to qwallefye it, and with your good cowncell and advise to direct these pore men of Holland how best to behave them selves in it, for that Your Lordship in all your actions doth favor indifferencye and the cawse of the weker, pretending well, before ani other respect of the world, which your verey enmyes that have negociated here, ar fayne to confesse, muche more these men who indede do reverence you and do command them selves wholly to Your Lordship, and Pawll Buis hathe suche a speciall confidence of your wisdom and vertue as he deppendes of non more in the world than of Your Lordship, foreseing that the Queen's Majesty may be somuche allured with theme and their cawses for this accident, that hath interceded as it may further their adversaries in their delynges, if the matter be nott the soner and the better reconciled with Her Majesty, wherunto haply there wilbe instrumentes of our owne more redy to sturre up humors than to appeise theme. Butt uppon this occasion ij good workes might be wrowght, that is, Her Majesty to be sett contented by suche mene as bothe might like her, and yett be honorable to theme and for whome they dele, besyde that the Portingall Ambassadour might have the commendation to make som surer traffick bettwixt ether partyes to the proffit of his King and assurance of his Kinges subjectes the more, which ..... may move hym

nott a lyttell, wherof the trew prayse is to turne to Your Lordship, to whom they humble theme selves in all thinges, and therefore it may plese Your Lordship to vouchesave me som answer heruppon, wherwith verely humbly I take mi leve.

From Redcrosse strete, the viii<sup>th</sup> of marche 1575.

(Record office, Cal., n° 638.)

### MMMXXVIII.

#### *Le Conseil d'État à M. de Champagney.*

(BRUXELLES, 9 MARS 1576.)

Le Conseil d'État charge Champagney d'annoncer à la reine la mort de Requesens et de lui faire connaitre qu'il a pris en main le gouvernement en attendant les ordres du roi. — Félicitations adressées à Champagney sur les résultats de sa mission.

Monsieur de Champagney, Nous ne pouvons obmettre de avec indicible desplaisir et regret vous faire entendre comme le cinqüième du présent, environ les<sup>4</sup>trois heures du matin, Dieu a esté servi appeller de sa part Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur de Castille, lieutenant-gouverneur et capitaine-général pour le Roy nostre sire ès pays de pardeçà, que est décédé de ce monde autant chrestienement que faire se pourroit : ce que, avec sa vie qui a esté tant vertueuse et exemplaire, doit faire croire fermement que Dieu aura associé son âme avec les bienheureuses, que prions, soit ainsy ; mais c'est bien une perte autant mal propre et dommageable en ceste conjecture au service de Sa Majesté que aultre qui eust secu advenir. Si est-ce qu'il fault la prendre en patience comme chose venant de la main et vouloir de Dieu, et faire du mieulx que l'on pourra pour son service, et celluy de Sadite Majesté, jusques à ce qu'elle y aura ordonné son bon vouloir, comme summes bien délibérés faire, vous priant, pendant le temps que trouverez bien demeurer là, nous faire part de ce que adviserez convenir au service de Sa Majesté et bénéfice de ce pays, faisant en oultre sçavoir à la Royne d'Angleterre le trespas dudiet seigneur Commandeur, et que à ceste occasion, nous pour raison de nos offices et lieux que tenons, avons estimé estre de nostre debvoir tenir le soing de ce gouvernement jusques à aultre ordonnance de Sa Majesté, y adjoustant que sumes bien délibérés de faire tous debvoirs de maintenir au nom d'icelle tous les traictés, bonne voisinance, alliances et amitié, et la requérant, par les meilleurs termes dont sçavez vous adviser, qu'elle veuille faire le mesme de sa part.

Au diet cinquième de ce mois arrivèrent vos lettres à feu Son Excellence, des xxv<sup>e</sup> et xxviii<sup>e</sup> d'icelluy, contenant tout ce que aviez passé jusques lors, par où les choses et humeurs de là se monstrent bien différentes de lors quand y arrivastes et quelque peu après, si que vostre envoy celle part et séjour illecq jusques à présent samble par bonne négociation et dextérité n'avoir esté de peu de fruit, ayant ainsy faict changer les imaginations et inclinations de ces gens-là et descouvert plusieurs choses de non peu de moment. Qui nous meut à vous représenter que vous-mesmes considérerez si, quand aurez receu responce absolute de la Royne, il convient au service de Sa Majesté, mesmement en ceste conjecture, que retourniez incontinent pardeçà ou point, pour en user selon que jugerez estre plus à propos et convenable, sans que endroict vostre diet retour sçaurions vous dire aultre chose.

De Bruxelles, le ix<sup>e</sup> jour de mars 1576.

(Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles, Nég. d'Angleterre, t. V, fol. 202.)

MMMXCIX.

*M. de Champagne à Requesens.*

(LONDRES, 10 MARS 1576.)

Il espère que le bruit de la mort de Requesens ne se confirmera point. — Graves conséquences qu'aurait cet événement. — Mesures à prendre à Anvers. — Méfiance que lui inspire Altaemps. — Relations avec Marnix. — Plaintes contre Camargo. — Diner chez Gresham. — Motion présentée au Parlement en faveur des propositions des États de Hollande.

Monseigneur, Dieu conserve Vostre Excellence heureusement beaucoup d'années en bonne santé et nous guard de si mauvaises nouvelles, comme celles qu'on semat hier soir, car on me vint dire que Sainet-Aldegonde, qui loge à la Poste avec ses collègues, avoir heu un billet de Court, que l'on présuinoit fut de Walsingham, par lequel on luy mandoit qu'on estoit adverty de la mort du Duc de Savoye et que aucuns, au nom du Roy, nostre maistre, s'estoient saisis du prince son fils : ce que l'ambassadeur de France, qui m'estoit venu visiter l'après-disner, m'avoit aussi diet. Quant au premier, et d'autres lieux on l'assure; mais audiet billet ils adjoustoient que Vostre Excellence aussi estoit défaillye subitement, dont celluy qui l'escripvoit, conjecturoit des grandes mutations. Cela fut espanché en plus d'ung lieu, qui me troublat merveilleusement et tant plus que, ayant envoié en Court et ailleurs pour en entendre la soursse, Antonio de Guaras, ascez

tard, nonobstant son indisposition, me vint treuver, qui avoit entendu les mesmes. Là nous représentâmes subit les mutineries attentées et que sont encores sur pied, tant de l'infanterie espaignole que de la cavallerie légère; la difficulté, nonobstant laquelle Vostre Excellence, par sa diligence, avoit assisté les progrès de Monsieur d'Yerges jusques icy, et que sans faulte je ne sçay aultre qui l'heust secu ainsi faire et en autres endroiets, voilà fallut trouver argent; celle que l'on hauroit pour entretenir le siège de Ziericzee et les Allemans, et oublié de l'hazard auquel je me treveroy pour sortir de ce royaume. Je dépleureroy l'estat de la ville d'Anvers, pour l'obligation que je y ay, tant que le Roy me lairrat avec le nom de celle charge, l'imaginant maintenant en mains d'un estrangier à sa mode, avec une garnison qui ne pouvoit faillir ou à la saccaiger ou à la traicter peu moins ou pis, d'autant que ces mercenaires de celle nation et en ce régiment et aultres ont assez déclairé qu'ils n'ont aultre debvoir au Roy que pour luy gagner son argent et pour s'enrichir de celluy-là à tors et à travers ou du sang de ses subjects, que ainsi [ne] se peult dire ce qu'ils en ont sussé jusques à cest heure, que, si bien le Conte Hannibal est obligé à Vostre Excellence, je croy que ceste ville-là seroit plus seure en mains de quelque autre, qui le fût au Roy et responsable à celluy-là, comme j'ay quelquesfois dict, proposant le Maistre-de-camp Julian, qui ha si vertueusement monstré naguières à Bruxelles (dont encoires icy on le loue) et sa fidélité singulière au service du Roy et l'amour qu'il hat à son peuple, que je n'estime pas des moindres qu'on sçauroit faire à Sa Majesté, comme ce que fit le châtelain d'Utrecht, à la mutinerie des Espaignols en Hollande; car sans faulte, ayant veu la faveur qu'en Anvers heurent ceulx qui y vindrent par le moien du chasteau qui y est, estoye en grand souey, considérant celle cité, une des plus illustres de l'Europe et l'estomacq des Pays-Bas, entre ceste Sille et Carybde, en temps si esmeu à tous costels et parmy humeurs si tempestueux, chose que m'a tant parturbé que, si bien, Dieu grâces, nous fumes quasi assurez que la nouvelle semée de Vostre Excellence soit vaine, si n'ay-je peu délaisser de représenter icy les doubtes qui m'ont exagité, pour estre considérables, puisque ceste nécessité humaine nous est tant incertaine qu'on ne peult assez préveoir aux inconveniens qu'elle pourroit induire, et à ce langaige j'estime aussi que ma conscience, ma fidélité et mon debvoir m'y obligent; car, néantmoings qu'en ceey je ne prétens de blasonner personne, si ne puis-je délaisser aussi, pour le respect que j'ay aux choses de mon Roy et à ma charge, de ramantevoir à Vostre Excellence qu'elle ne doit ignorer la suspicion qu'on a eu aultrefois des menées du Pape Pie-Quint, oncle de ce Conte Hannibal, contre les Estats de Sa Majesté Catholique, celle qu'on a eu (et Vostre Excellence mesme) du Cardinal Boromé, beau-frère dudict Conte, comme il se voyt par le différend qui fut entre vous deux, et la place forte que Vostre Excellence ostat audict Cardinal au ducé de Milan le tesmoigne, et moy-mesmes je suis esté quelquesfois empesché en Court de l'Empereur moderne pour entendre quelques menées de l'évesque Bia, nonce en celle Court dudict

Pape, dont on le vouloit charger d'avoir sollicité celle Majesté, tant de la part de Sa Saincteté que du Cardinal prédit, au desservice et très-grand du Roy nostre sire. Ce que, si bien je n'ay voulu jusques ores dire si clairement, à présent je ne le puis plus taire, pour le grand sursault que j'ay heu de ceste nouvelle, véant que la plus grande assurance que nous avons en celle garnison, c'est le respect qu'il pourra porter à Vostre Excellence, sçachant combien à Naples il a esté malaysé à contenter et que à présent la faulte du payement, pour lequel il s'est toute sa vie monstré si ancré, ne peult délaisser de causer, si tel cas advenoit, de si grands inconveniens que possible les Estats du Roy s'en verroient en grand bransle.

J'envoie ici deux lettres à Vostre Excellence que Sainct-Aldegonde m'ha escrit, afin qu'on ne die quelquesfois qu'en aucun lieu ou temps j'en aye heu de ce costel-là, sans les déclairer. L'on m'apportat la première sans qu'on sceut par qui. Je luy mandas par l'Italien nommé en la seconde que j'estoye bien ayse qu'il n'avoit occasion de se douloir de moy et que ceulx qui luy avoient dict que je me plainnoy de luy, l'avoient abusé; qu'il heust peu excuser tout ce long discours, comme chose perdue avec moy, duquel sans faulte il estoit fort esloigné quant il estoit en prison, et qui ne l'heust relasché, ains suyvy ce que j'avois commencé, nous heussions jà piéça les pays tranquilles avec la réputation du Roy et la religion entière. Je lui mandas aussi que je ne luy respondoy par escrit pour n'estre nécessaire, aussi que, s'il estoit vray ce qu'il m'advertissoit, qu'il ne me convenoit de le faire, néantmoins que principalement je le fis, pour ce que ces gens-là font leur proffit de tout, et je me doubtas que possible il voudroit donner à entendre d'estre rechehéré. Au surplus ne me semblat requis d'user autres termes, pour non couper le filet en lieu neutre à ce qu'on pourroit tirer d'eulx; car je tiens qu'il hat grand envie de parler à moy-mesmes pour quelques propos que Miladi Boussey, belle-sœur de Millord Burghle, me tint au palais ces jours passés, disant s'estre treuvée avec le susdict Sainct-Aldegonde au logis de celuy qu'ils appellent évesque de Londres, où il luy avoit dict beaucoup de bien de moy: à quoy je luy respondis en termes généraulx et que c'estoit dommaige qu'ung si bon esprit n'estoit mieulx employé; mais, à l'advertissement qu'il me donnoit, je luy mandas encoires que, quant bien ainsi fût ce qu'il disoit, ma vie et intention estoit telle et si congnue des gens de bien que je sçavoys que telles recherches me feroient plustost honneur que autrement, quant ceulx qui font autres, la feront, car ce ne peuvent estre tels ceulx qui s'y voudront employer, néantmoins que, pour le service mesmes de Vostre Excellence, je ne puis non dire en ceste conjuncture que j'ay secu assez, par les confesseurs de ceulx qu'on deffit à Anvers et autres, que les patiens enchargèrent de m'en advertir à l'heure de leur mort, que outre ce que fut rapporté aux procès, le procureur Mathey et Michiel Van de Wiele furent sollicités, au lieu de la torture, fort précisément, pour m'accuser jusques quasi à leur donner espoir d'impunité, s'ils me chargeoient: qu'est

bien loing de reconnoistre le debyoir que je fis à la trahison d'Anvers, et ung Bourgoignon depuis fut traicté de mesmes, pour seavoir s'il m'avoit apporté lettres du Prince d'Oranges ou de moy à luy, dont je ne n'ay faict que rire, bien que c'est opprobre de la justice qu'ung tel malheureux que Camargo, souillé de tous vices et meschancetés, aye telle auctorité qu'il se puisse avancer ainsi, hors de tout ordre de droict, souvent seul ou avec tels que luy, à balancer l'honneur des meilleurs serviteurs que le Roy aye, offices par lesquels plusieurs qui le sont, fuyent de servir Vostre Excellence, voire voudroient les Pays Bas, pour non estre objects de la calomnie d'aucuns, qui ont treuvé vogue à leurs passions, et voïans en tel crédit et ceste auctorité ung tel galland, pour lequel on ne treuveroit coffre assez grand, si, comme Pape Paule Quatriesme fit à ses nepveus, on en vouloit abandonner ung pour les mémoriaux qu'on y pourroit mettre des concussions et abominations de ce garnement, et si sa malice n'estoit plus crainete que la faulte des preuves. Aussi, si ce n'estoit que le chastoy d'ung tel belitre est deu à ung boureau, certes je ne seay si, à la fin, le respect de Vostre Excellence basteroit à retenir quel'ung de s'en souler les mains, puisqu'il en abuse si avant.

L'autre lettre me fut apportée de nuyet par ung varlet du mesme Sainct-Aldegonde. Je luy dis que, pour s'estre adressé à moy, de sa part, l'Italien nommé en celle-là, je luy avois donné la response à l'autre lettre, laquelle il n'avoit pas veue, et que autrement je n'avois plus estroite congnoissance de l'Italien; que je n'avois aussi que dire à Sainct-Aldegonde; mais que, s'il heust voulu venir vers moy, comme il avoit monstré (si c'estoit pour chose de quelque estoffe), je l'heus admis en mon logis, tellement que ny espie, ny autre ne l'heut peu descouvrir; que je n'avois pour quoy le chercher ailleurs, ny envoïer vers luy, ny moings pour quoy luy escrire, mais que je remectoys à luy ce que je luy offrois, et que je n'estois si indiscret que de luy nuyre en lieu neutral, ny je ne le congnoissoy si simple qu'il le deust penser. J'entens qu'il se doute de ce que la Royne m'ha diet, et que luy et ses compaignons se plaignent tous les jours plus du changement qu'ils tiennent en ceste Court. L'ambassadeur aussi de France s'enquiert fort de moy vers divers, et, avec ombre de mes négociations il ne m'ha pas encoires enfoncé grand matière, si bien nous avons parlé des affaires de France, mais superficiellement. Il me diet hier que le trefve estoit là pour quarante jours, ores qu'il fit semblant d'ignorer quant elle commençoit, et espère la paix, si bien aux choses que j'ay opposé, il n'y satisfaiet peu.

Mardy dernier, je disnas chez Thomas Grueshem, où il conviat les plus principaulx du Conseil avec grand noblesse. Je parlas longtems au Conte de Leicester qui continue et donne espoir, s'il ne maucque de nous, de plus qu'on ne seuroit dire, et assure beaucoup de la bonne intention de la Royne. Milord Burghlé se monstreat aussi plus jovial que de coustume. Le susdiet Conte et celluy de Susceux me vindrent lever en mon logis, et j'eus assez à faire à empescher que tous ne m'y accompaignassent, dont cest

ambassadeur de France est fort jaloux, et le peuple en ha esté fort esbahy, et que l'après-souper la Royne me manda querre par le sieur Henry Coban, pour veoir avec elle les festes du palais, où à l'accoustumé elle me fit trop grandes faveurs, me ramenant mon partement et l'envoy que j'entens serat de celluy qui m'accompaignat, à ce que je comprins de luy-mesmes : ainsi je voys qu'il serat nécessaire de vuyder, et il conviendrat, avant qu'ils changent stile en mon endroiet, comme il sera force, car ils en font trop pour durer. Je m'entretiens sur la venue d'ung courrier; mais, ayant response quelle qu'elle soit, j'entens qu'ils ne me souffreront plus. Le Parlement aussi s'achève déans trois ou quatre jours, après lequel la Royne se part. Le mardy gras, en la chambre basse, sir Thomas Schot proposat qu'on debvroit présenter requeste à la Royne, afin qu'elle acceptât les offres que ceulx d'Hollande luy font, pour extendre jusques à là ce royaume, et quant et quant la religion. Morton, l'ung des députés de ceste ville audiet Parlement, suyvit son dire, et Atton qui est ung homme de lettre; mais sir Thomas Craft, contrerolleur de la maison de la Royne et de son Conseil, s'y opposat, disant que ceulx qui mettoient telles choses en avant, ne pouvoient estre sinon mal affectionnés à la Royne, puisqu'ils estoient d'avis qu'elle entreprint choses tant sans fondement et sans aucun droit, comme ayans oublié combien fut domageable à Sa Majesté l'entreprinse du Havre-de-Grâce, que le Vidame livrat sur semblable buffe, et qu'il luy sembloit que ces gens usoiest grande présomption à se mesler de proposer ung tel faict en ce lieu-là où n'appartenoit point d'en traicter. César Carff a faict plusieurs offices pour nous de soy-mesmes, signament dois que je suis icy, encoires que je n'ay peu parler à luy que passant, le rencontrant au palais; mais j'ay heu quelques-ungs qui l'ont exhorté de ma part à continuer et qui luy ont faict entendre que je sçavois sa bonne intention, de laquelle je diray davantaige à mon retour, car elle le mérite. Dois le xxvij<sup>e</sup> du passé je n'ay lettres de Vostre Excellence, lesquelles furent du xxij<sup>e</sup> 1.

De Londres, ce x<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Publié par M. de Robaulx, *Mém. de Champagne*, p. 387.)

<sup>1</sup> Morillon écrivait à Granvelle le 19 mars 1576 :

« Mons<sup>r</sup> de Champagney, ad ce que l'on dit, n'at mal besoigné jusques ores en Angleterre, et doit amener ung ambassadeur de là avec soy. Il at esté plus festoyé que ambassadeur de longtems. Milord Hatton, qu'at esté ambassadeur vers nostre Roy, l'at traicté par deux fois en divers lieux siens hors de Londres, l'est venu quérir avec 150 chevaux et le ramené par deux fois, lui at faict présent de hacquenées, et tant faict que le peuple en at prins jalousie, et aussi de la Royne que l'at fort encaressé, jusques à voulloir dansser avec luy; ce qu'il at refusé avec bonne grâce et modestie. . . . . L'on dit que la Royne luy dit qu'elle avoit seeu, passé trois sepmaines, que l'on lui devoit envoyer queleung pour bravisser contre elle; qu'il luy desplairoit que ce fust luy, puisqu'elle se tenoit obligée à Vostre Illustrisme Seigneurie, magnifiant ses qualités et vertus. » (Pior, *Corresp. de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 28.)

MMMC.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(11 MARS 1576.)

Paul Buys s'est efforcé de justifier les marins de Flessingue et se plaint de ce que quatre de leurs navires de guerre sont retenus dans les ports de l'Angleterre. — Il désire obtenir une réponse de la reine sur le but de sa mission. — C'est à sa demande qu'il s'est rendu à Londres. — Il rappelle les promesses qui lui ont été faites et les encouragements qu'il a reçus. — Il résume les moyens par lesquels la reine aurait pu venir en aide aux États de Hollande. — Il réclame enfin sa protection contre les mauvais desseins de Champagney.

I received Your Lordship's letter on thursday in the mornyng, and yesterday in the afternoone Pawll Buis cam hither to me of him self, with whom after sondry confferences of other thinges I tolld him that it was hardly beleved that the Flussingers sholld be so used by the passengers of Dover as to caste their men over boord in that sort, and was rather lykely that the Flussingers dyd lye purposely in awaytt there for these shippes and the Lady being in the sight of Her Majestic's castelles of the Downes, which most towche the Queen's Majesty the nerer to have so small respect used to her and to those to whom she had certainly given assurans for their saffe conductyng over, which dyd also give small favor to those that had good desire to bestowe their travayll for the redintegrating of fryndship betwen them and the Portingalles, whiles the facte thus remayned unsatisfyed, and the Lady and M<sup>r</sup> Cobham with all their company still prysoners. Further ytt dyd make som that were well affected towards theme, bothe sory and angrye with the insolencyes of the Flussingers, whom honour perswaded to chasten, and were easely don, butt the respect of the commune cawse dyd move rather their amendment, and yett, by the fowll usage of our natyon, the tendernes that was ment to theme here, and their frutes demynisshed, som provoked justly with their private losses, and som asshamed to deffend theme.

Wherunto he answered : he sayd as was answered by hym and his colleges to the Councell in that behallf allredy, thatt they were nott com hither to have in charge ani other thing than was sollicited by M<sup>r</sup> Hastings in Holland from Her Majesty, wherin they had humbly obeyed Her sayd Majesty in reffusing no travaill, nor danger in transporting theme selves hither to perform the same of their parte in the sharpest season of the yere, which was to present theme selves, their lives, goodes and contry to Her Majestic's soveraynty and protectyon, and to make her the grettest prynee that had bin in Englande of mani yeres, a matter withall so lawfull, honorable, religyous and com-



moditys to be embraced as non cowd be prefferred to yt, besyde the saffety and assurans (omytteng the ensynes to enlarge her bowndes further) that was in keping of it with small fences and charges agaynst all men. The necessity and subjectyon that it brought, asswell her open proffessed adversaryes unto, as her secret, by possessing that place, wherby she were mistres and commander of the whole seas and of the grettest navye in Christendom, wherof then her regard shold be no les to prevent others of so dangerows a soorit unto her estate, than to be invested so justly in it her self. And of these thinges he sayd, and for Her Majestie's hellp and assistens theryn, had they only to intrest and of non other, having to that end long attended Her Majestie's gracyous resolutyon and answeere here, which ones had, they had dispatched their commissyon withall.

Yt graved theme notwithstanding verey muche to here of these complayntes that were made dayly against the Flusshingers, nott dowting butt when the Prince and the States, to whom the redresse therof appertayned, shold be infformed of their behavoyr and spoyles, butt that a spedye and convenient order shold be taken to the lykeng of Her Majesty and satisfactyon of ether syde, wherunto bothe he and hir companyons wold be assistent with all their travayll and dilygens, to th'end that the intelligens and amytye between theme and us might be the surelyer entertayned.

And to this end had they allredy wrytten to the sayd Prince and States in verey earnest sort uppon the Councelle's motyon last to theme, asswell for the delyvery of the Lady, as to be instructed of the maner of her taking. « For, sayth he, it was an » embolldning to th'Englissmen to caste the Flusshingers over boord, to be within » sight of these castelles, and a grett provocatyon to the other syde uppon this injurye, » to do as they dyd, though they had well knowen beffore hand that Her Majesty » had given order for her transportyng (fury then in theme giveng no place to reson), » and yett the sayd Lady, being thus taken, was and is a lawfull prysoner, he sayd, to » her takers, and so were ani that appertayned ether to th'embassadour or his master, » for that the Kinge of Portingall had vj wekes beffore proclaymed those of Holland, » Zeland and Rochell, with all those that ether dyd adhere unto theme or dyd mayn- » tayne theme, for his open ennies, and so to be taken of all his subjectes, att the » which proclamatyon som that dwell in this towne, were present, that are hable to » avowche ytt, wherby th'embassadour may reppute it a grett grace of Her Majestie's » to receive his spowse by her mene agayn, butt for no respect borne at all to him, » with whom they ar att a short poynt . . . . . for ani further speche of fryndship or » amitye to be had bettween theme, seing his master hath coneluded as he hath don. »

Mary, the sayd Pawll Buys entreates Your Lordship agayne thatt there may be a due regarde of eqwitye had to their syde in lyke maner, lest it maye exasperate more in a small space for lack of that cownterpoise, than they be hable to refforme in a grett

while after, thincking it verey strange that four of their shippes of warre, having more than iij<sup>o</sup> men aboard, sholld be stayed in the west contrey to their extreme charges these xiiij or xvj dayes, without cawse whye, and long heffore this chance happened, which is to brede inconvenyence he alledgeth, yf they be nott relessed the soner; for men of warre provoked be hardly brydelled att the seas, and nott Her Majestie's own navye can be so wholly att commandement, butt that disorders unprovoked ar many tymes commytted by theme, which they fynde to muche in their own people, for those of Zeland do detayne from those of Holland by juste accompte made iij<sup>o</sup> m<sup>li</sup> of their propper goodes and shipping synce the giveng up of Myddelburgh, which is nott spoken, he sayeth, to dele so with Her Majestie's subjectes, butt to showe that they ar fayen to tollerate many thinges for the tyme' and cawse' sake, with those that be under their own subjectyon.

So desires he in lyke maner that a consideratyon may be had here of these complayntes that be made agaynst the Flusshingers, to examyne dulye whither they be fyrst trew before they be thought worthy to be charged with theme, for som attribute the spoyles commytted by pyrates to theme (with whom the sea swarmes), som other aggravate their losses to amend their credite, and som are malyeyously practised for this season to make complayntes without cawse only to allter the Quene's Majestie's affection towards theme: which they ar hable to prove in all three. Therefore, to provyde an yndifferent remedy and mene to mete with these frawdres and spoyles of bothe sides, ytt may plese Her Majesty to appoint on or ij suffyeyent dyscrete persons to be resydent for her in Hollande and Zeland, whose charges those contreyes shall bere for the desire they have to the sincere conservatyon of bothe partyes in good proceeding and lykeng with other, and they to have agayne on or ij lykewise for theme here, without ani burden to Her Majesty, by discretyon and yndustrye of which persons on bothe sydes all complayntes and spoyles to be rypely examyned, debated and determyned, and accordingly restytutyon to be made, and exemplayre correctyon, withall which may encoraige their good fryndes here, rather than make theme asshamed to deffend them and their cawses as they dessire.

Butt this was nott the principall poynt, he sayd, that he came presently to me for, though he desired that Your Lordship sholld partyclerly understand whatt speche had passed in the former matter bettween us from degre unto degre, butt it was to pray me earnestly, for the good will that I had allwayes borne to theyr contrey, and cawse to wryte unto Your Lordship that you wolld vowchesave in respecte of the place and credite that he had with Her Majesty, and for the estymatyon that all these have you yn, which have ones tasted your wisdom, rowndnes and syncere delying by negoeyating with you, to procure theme, after so long a consumptyon of their tyme and occasyons here, som dyrect and absolute answer from Her Majesty in wryteing, grownded upon

that that M<sup>r</sup> Hastings was sent to theme for, and their commyng over upon the same, according to his instructyons and perswasyon unto theme, that, being thus dispatched att lengthe, they may have somewhat to justeffye their doinges and abode, when they retorne, which he and his company will receive in place of a grett benefyte to have this favour shewed theme, with the spede and seeresye that may be, by Your Lordship's mene. To which effect he wold have attended uppon Your Lordship him sellf, saving he wold avoyd the Spaynissh Ambassador's eyes and observatyons of him, which otherwise are fixyd to nere uppon him and his company, and nott alonely uppon their busynes so much as uppon their lives, a practis being made to kylle theme, and monney both receved and delyvered to that end allredy by certaine Italiens, *sed sperat malum consilium fere consolari pessimum.*

Affter this, in maner of a fryndly and moornesfull complaynt, he proceded that his affectyon to Her Majesty and this estate wold cost him verey dere, feryng to lose nott only his credite and reputation when he returned, butt his lyfe allso, having sondri agaynst him, that were affected otherwise, which perswaded before hand that they shold be fede here with prolongatyons and delayes, and in the ende conclude nothing att all, using for a maxime that our custome was to direct our determynatyons by temporizeing and by the event of thinges, and nott as the cawse required in necessity and consultation, which difficultyes he cutt of by his credite and by undertaking to com over hither, and now ar dayly objected to him by his own companions to his gretter greeff. Butt, that which towceth nerest, he seeth that by their treaty here, that his whole contrey and natyon is brought into an immortall hatred never to be reconciled with the Kinge of Spayne; for he, as the vyndicativest prynee alyve, will never forgett that they have offred to renounce his soverainty for ever to obeye the Quene's Majesty of England, and kepes in store that Her Majesty wold intertayne this maner of proceeding to compelle him to her condityons and prescriptyons.

Agayn, sayth the sayd Pawll Buis, that he hath sondry tymes since his commyng over hither given good hope of ayd and assistence to the Prynce and the States of his contrey, wheruppon they have stayed and suspended all their enterprises, surprises and disseignes, which, by these prolongatyons, ar ether made vayne or unproffitable, or elles to their dissavantaige discovered and prevented: the whole blame wherof was to be layd only, he sayd, to his charge and rebuke in making hym sellf so confsydent.

Wheruppon he toke occasion to reppete uppon whatt good wordes he had grownded and confirmed an assurcd hope, after his commyng ones over, to conclude all thinges to the advancement of the commune cawse, and to the honour and proffytt of Her Majesty, as he most affectyonately and humbly desired, and therby consequently was bolld to advertys theme over therof, as he dyd, and to byd them to deppende assuredly of Her Majesty and her ayd, which was this:

First, that Her Majesty, of a singular zeale, as she showed towards them in the begynnng, sayd that she was glad of their comyng in tyme, for all respectes of suche opportunitye as non cowd be desired better; for even then her ambassadour, she had he..., was arrived owtt of Spayne, and wold be att the Cowrt within ij or iij dayes following, by whom she shold be instructed fully of the state of all thinges, and therefore the better direc... to procede with theme, of whose cause she was well satisfyed allredy, she sayd, that it was juste and honorable and worthy the embracing, and that she wold dele therin, for nether she waye[d], nor cared for the Kinge of Spayne in that behalff att all..... She wold putt the matter in delyberatyon to her Cowncell, that, using their advise and judgement therin, she might with the better conseyens and grownd conclude of that which was to be executed, assuryng theme, in the word of a prince, to dele breccfly and sincerely with theme, according to the moment of the cause and tyme, addyng, alas, that she shold do theme more domma ... otherwise by prolongiug of theme, than she cowd do them good were differred. And to this end she sayd, had she sent on to the Commendador in the Lowe-Contreyes (for that to send into Spayne was to long a circumstance) to be the better resolved in her affayres and att the same instant, *ne jacturam faceret temporis, sed potius temporis occurreret*, dispatched that honest gentillman to theme (poynteng to M<sup>r</sup> Hastynges) to be instructed of their estate, and to communicate her mynde further with theme, wher with they departed from Her Majesty the contentedest men in the world.

Then proceded we, sayd he, to dele with the Cowncell in these affayres, with whom the first acte was to perswade theme of the grownde and justyee of our cause, of the grettnes and commodyty that shold ensue therby to Her Majesty, of the necessity that might move her to embrace it, of the facility in keping of it, of the fryndes and traffyk that it wold procure, and of the brydell that ytt wold be to all her advarsaryes, as was alledged ones before, answeyng all other dowttes and objectyons that might be made, so that no party to our semyng, he sayd, was unsatisfyed.

To the which the second acte was addcd, and that was that the Cowncell, as men now that had well lyked the fyrst parte, dyscended then to interrogate of the estate and condytyon in partyculer of their thinges att home, wherin they symply answered theme agayne to all demandes, openyng theme sellves entyerlye for their strengthe, munytyon, renews, charges, fortificatyons, traffick, navy, maryners, sowdyors, townes, and for their dissignes, intelligences, attemptes and surprises abrode, leving nothing undiscovered that might ether expresse the trew confydens conseved of Her Majesty and Their Honors, or their integrity towards theme in this playnesse.

Which, after som pawse, bred further qwestyon, he sayd, for then difficulty was made of the grettnes of the charge that this mayntenance wold contynually axe, and therefore semed an impossibility to be browght to a sownd perfectyon, wherunto, for

remedy, a new offer was made of their syde, that, yf Her Majesty wolld within the space of on yere, or a lyttell more, lend them in on somm, or sondry, the value of a cm<sup>li</sup> (higher they wolld nott presse her), the same sholld supplye theyr nede, suffise for their deffence, brydell Her Majestic's enmyes, and she, without her charges, be possessed of the contrey, ether as a pledge for her monney, or redy to be entyerly hers.

Butt this nott being well digested, they were refferred over further to the Parlyament, he sayd; for, the causes being so weighty and generall, ytt was Her Majestic's plesure that they sholld be debated there, to have the generall consent of the reallm therunto, and their generall aydes withall, which wolld forteffye the actyon throwly, which Parlyament, having contynued so long and being redy to dissolve, hath yett passed hitherunto without ani motyon att all of their ease.

And now another cowrse is prepared unto theme agayne, that Her Majesty will dele for theme by waye of peace and reconsilement; butt whatt assurans can this peace or reconsilement have, he demandes, that can not be contracted with ani heretyck (as they and others be hollden), unles ytt be don to deceve and intrappe theme, which the discowrse delyvered to Your Lordship by him, conteyneng the maner how to make a peace with the Hollanders in shewe, and in effecte to oppresse theme unawares, doth sufficyently testeffye and confirme. And yet, this notwithstanding, they ar redy to obeye Her Majesty in this cowrse for peace, so she do assure theme, the matter taking no place, that she will receive theme into her protectyon, and that in the mene season she vowchesave to ayde theme with the lone of 50 m<sup>li</sup>, as she dyd unto the Prince of Condye, to kepe theme uppon theyr advantaige, that, duryng this treaty of peace, they be nott unfurnisshed to mete with the enterprises and surprises of their enmyes, as they were att the last tyme of their treaty with theme.

Or, yf Her Majesty had rather dele another waye, that, wheras there be certain merchantes here that offer to furnissh theme, whatt in monney and clothes, to the valew of 25 or 50 m<sup>li</sup>, Her Majesty might satisfye theme with som secrett suretyes of her appoyntment, which wolld content theme well, and the matter might passe in the more scylens therby.

He, wissheng humbly that Her Majesty wolld do somewhat by on of these menes to conserve therby her repputation with those of Holland and Zelande, that it might serve yett as a cownterpoyse (yf she pretended no further) to prevent the malyce of her enmyes, when tyme were, wherin she had to regard the devotyon and oppynion allso of those contreyes towards her, which presented to her theme sellves and all besyde, a matter in ani gratitude nott to be contempned, having cost theme, being pore men in this jorney hither, he sayth, besyde their losse of tyme and other occasyons consumed therby, whatt with entertayncng M<sup>r</sup> Hastynges there, and conductyon hither with ves-

selles of warre, with their other charges, above ij m<sup>li</sup> sterlyng, butt theye accompte all thinges well employed so they be well taken, as they have humbly ment and do mene, wherof he desires Your Lordship to be partyelerly advertised by me, to whom, under seeresye, he commyttes this trust and charge, and that you will vowchesave to make som breff answer to those partes agayne, that be mete to receve answer.

Coneluding with this admonityon to Your Lordship that, though Her Majesty have a verey wise and vigilant Cowncell, that can and doth consyder of menne's humours and factyons exactly when they com hither, and therby can fynde owtt their practises and synister behavyors, whiles they pretend the contrary, yett that it may plese Your Lordship to take this light att his handes, to have a good regard to Champigny and his doinges here, who bredes as grett a monster haply, to the prejudice of Her Majesty and her estate now, as ever dyd Chappin Vitelli, while he negociated in these partes; for the Scottissh factyon lyves and hath her favorers to many, and many and dangerous be the partes that may be played uppon the playn song of Don John d'Awstria, all which have their tyme to be hatched. Butt, if Her Majesty woldd consyder the state of Flanders now (specially West-Flanders, who hath above lx m. contreyemen in armes to deffend theme selves from the insolencies of the Spanyardes), and the intelligence that they have with mani other places, namely Owdenard, Gant, Dense and Ypres, that have declared theme selves of that mynde openly, besyde the dethe of the Commendador, as it is voyced, she might with on good cowntenance have them all att her devotyon, and give suche lawe to her Spaynish enmye, as woldd cutt of all his malycyous practises and devises att ons, for molestyng of her ani more by advancing that bosom serpent, the Scottissh Queen, or ani of his bastard race with her <sup>1</sup>. Which speche of his I have faythfully in substanee delyvered over to Your Lordship in this wryteng, prayeng pardon for the raggednes of mi hand, and my tedyousnes, which ye may impute to mi sycknes. And so verey humbly I take mi leve.

From Rederosse strete, the xi<sup>th</sup> of merche 1575.

Yt may plese Your Lordship, with that spede ye may, to peruse this packett.

(Record office, Cal., n° 665.)

<sup>1</sup> Morillon écrivait à Granvelle:

« Les Hennuyers s'arment fort, et en ung besoing se trouveroient 50,000 hommes avec les armes au dos, *quod mihi parum probatur*. En Flandres et en Brabant se faict le semblable. L'empereur Charles, d'heureuse mémoire, ne trouvoit bon de guerroyer avec ses propres subjects de son ancien patrimoine. . . . Il y at des mauvais et dangereux esprits partout. » (Pior, *Corresp. de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 40.)

MMMCI.

*M. de Champagney au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 12 MARS 1576.)

Vifs regrets au sujet de la mort de Requesens. — Il importe de maintenir l'ordre aux Pays-Bas, surtout à Anvers. — Éloge de Romero.

Messeigneurs, Je ne puis assez déplorer ung accident si dur pour l'État des Pays-Bas qu'est celluy du décès ainsi précipité de Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, duquel, ores qu'il n'est arrivé nouvelle par courrier nostre, ny courrier aucun dois le xxvij<sup>e</sup> du passé, qu'est une grande faulte d'eulx, si n'en peult-on doubter, puisque ceste Royne en ha advis tant reconformes de divers endroiets, et mesmes par advertissement de Bruges, tellement que icy on le tient pour chose toute certaine avec grande tristesse des serviteurs et affectionnés du Roy, nostre maistre, signament s'il est vray, ce qu'on affirme davantaige, que Gand, Ipre et Diest se sont soulevés, ce que néantmoins je ne veulx croire, ains que possible ils auront prins les armes contre l'insolence de leurs garnisons ou des soldats amutinés d'ailleurs, ce que avant ceste tant triste nouvelle l'on sçavoit jà icy se devoir craindre de divers costés. De ceey, Messeigneurs, vous pourrez bien penser combien nos malvueillans et ceulx qui vueillent persuader ceste Royne à entreprendre choses nouvelles, taicheront d'en faire leur profit, dont je suis desjà adverty qu'ils sont allé devers elle en bon nombre et des ungs et des autres, pour remectre sur pied ce que si heureusement j'avois abbattu, non toutesfois sans grande difficulté, comme on aura peu veoir par les lettres que j'ay escript, dois mon arrivée icy, à Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, contre qui et ceste Royne et toute sa Court estoient merveilleusement animés, pour la lettre qu'il avoit envoié en sa langue et en son privé nom par l'ambassadeur Corbet; et les choses estoient si avant pour prendre non seul la protection des rebelles de nostre Roy, mais encoires des lieux par eulx occupés, au nom de ceste Royne, que ceulx mesmes de ses subjects et des plus principaulx qui soustenoient au contraire, disent hault et clair que, sans les diligences que j'ay faict, ils fussent esté contrains à se rendre. Voires jà y en avoit d'eulx qui commençoient à tourner la voile, se véant emportés par le plus grand nombre et des plus auctorisés, comme le langage de divers dont j'ay adverty, peult assez tesmoigner. Maintenant, veant ce grand bruiet, qui s'eslève, de nouveau je taiche d'avoir audience, pendant que j'espère encoires trouver quelque étincelle du gré et faveurs tant grands que ceste Royne m'ha monstré, et de les entretenir et fomentier tant qu'en moy sera par la

bonne grâce d'aucuns de ses ministres principaux, qui en usent en bon endroit; mais, comme toutes choses sont peu arrestées icy, je ne sçay qu'en espérer bonnement d'ores en avant, ny ne pense qu'ils me vueillent souffrir d'avantage, puisque tout leur des-seing ténendoit à ce que j'ay tant de fois escript, que cesse maintenant par ceste mort. Et si ne serat-ce sans grand hasard que je me pourray retirer; mais ce que emporterat plus à retenir ces gens, deppenderat de la conduite de vous autres, Messeigneurs, et selon l'ordre qu'ils verront que vous mettez aux premiers désordres, lesquels, s'ils sont et poursuyvent, comme on diet, je croy qu'il fault plustost penser à retenir ce qu'on hat (tant que Dieu permecte mieulx) que à aultres conquestes. Et pour ce que l'ung et l'autre sera tant difficile avec soldats mal contens et sans aucune obéissance, et qu'il serat trop malaysé à les entretenir contens en si grand nombre, lequel nous voions évidemment nous ha conduit à ces désarrois, je ne puis délaissier (tant que je tiendray le nom, comme j'escrivoy avant-hier, de la charge pour laquelle Sa Majesté m'hat appellé à ma maison en Brabant, sans instance mienne, ains contre ma volonté), de représenter ce que je doibs à celle-là, que, oultre ce que j'escrivis par les susdictes de la garnison qu'est en Anvers, je pense que le meilleur seroit de licencier ce régiment-là, auquel on doit le moins, et celluy du Foucker, de quy ny l'expérience de guerre, ny le respect ne peult estre entre les soldats, tel qu'il est requis en une telle nécessité, ny la volonté en l'ung, ny en l'autre (à veoir la tâche qu'ils donnent à leurs gens), propre à accommoder nos besongnes. Après on treuvera meilleur moïen au pays d'entretenir en quelque contentement le surplus, et convient au pays mesmes de s'efforcer à se descharger de ce que mieulx se peult, pour tempérer ce sureroy continuel qui rendrat autant impossible le licencierement et entretenement de ces deux coronelleries, que des autres, qui sont des chiefs usés au Pays-Bas d'ancienneté et de marque respectable, et dont on peut plus espérer pour ces raisons, et envers leurs gens mesmes : aussi il est impossible de s'en faire quiete pour la grande dette qui leur est deue, que, si une fois la garnison qu'est en Anvers, se déborde, ils ont la meilleure ville des Pays-Bas et d'où procède le salut des autres, laquelle ils peuvent fort bien affranchir du chasteau, quant ils voudront, et sont à l'endroit le plus important et le plus commode pour l'ennemi; et seroy encoires d'avis, pour se bien asseurer à pur et à plain, qu'on mit en Anvers le Maistre-de-camp Julian Romero, avec honneste nombre de gens, pour fouler celle ville le moins qu'on pourra, qui ha tant pâty, et la retenir volontaire, où il est congnu et bien venu, et le sera tant plus, ayant si bien reprimé la mutinerie que à cest heure se commençoit à Bruxelles. Avec ce qu'il contient ses soldats en meilleure discipline que nul autre, et luy donnant moïen d'entretien et à ceulx du chasteau (que ne sera si grand coust à beaucoup près que des autres et à quoy je tiens qu'on pourroit donner quelque ordre, pendant que le Roy pourvoiera au surplus), ceste ville-là (dont tout le reste deppend) seroit assurée et de saccaïgement et de mutineries et de tous



ennemis, si nous en pouvons craindre de plus grands que nos soldats propres en cest estat.

De Londres, ce xii<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Publié par M. de Robaulx, *Mém. de Champagne*, p. 394.)

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MMMCII.

*Daniel Rogers à Burleigh et à Walsingham.*

(BRUGES, 13 MARS 1576.)

Nomination de nouveaux gouverneurs des provinces. — Plaintes des bourgeois d'Amsterdam adressées à Requesens avant sa mort. — Résumé des négociations de Breda. — Nouveaux armemens. — On dit que le prince d'Orange se rendra en Zélande. — Nouvelles d'Italie. — Anglais au service de Requesens.

Right honorable, I thincke, whiles the Ambassadors for the Lowe-Countries of bothe parties sojourne in Englande, you be oftentimes troubled with there affayres, and therefore I would be gladde if, beinge in thes places, I could heare or understande any thing which might further Your Honour's travell and endeavour, which was the cause I wroate unto you from Andwerpe the 7<sup>th</sup> of this monneth, sence which tymes I have understoode certayn thinges concerninge the present estate, not unworthy of Your Honour's knowledge, and which I thought good to advertis you of. After the Commandador his deathe, by consent of the Kinge's Councell here are chosen be provision for Gouvernours the Duke of Arshott, Ernest Count of Mansfeld and the Lord Rysseghem, who was and is Gouvernour of Ypres, and was latly employed in the last colloquy of Breda, and not 14 dayes past was chosen one of the 4 chefest of the Finances: he is of a good howse and well friended, and as flyer, as I can perceave, travelleth to make himself great by followinge the Spanyardes humours, with whom he hath consulted of longe tyme and is continewally, beinge neverthelesse well thought of by the nobles and commonaultic of the countie. Thes newe Gouvernours are greatly troubled in keapinge souldiers under obedience and provyding payement for them, even as the Commandador was befor his death, whose ende was shortned by the lyke caws; for, whereas he sought and invented meanes to synde monney, the Estates of the country, to elude his inventions, demanded very instantly of him such monney as they had lent him,

insomuche that he could not tell where to tourne him. They of Amsterdame, which have bene an especiall staye for the King in Holland, fearinge least they should pay new taxes and beinge grevously pressed by the continewance of this warre, directed one unto the Commandador, called Martin Bitter, an expert witt and learned, to desire ayde of the Commandador, who demonstrated unto him the untollerable charges and losse which they had susteyned, and that to defende them selves they were compelled to mayntayne divers garrisons at sondry fortes, which they had builded in many places nighe the towne, aswell for there surerte as to annoye ther enemyes. He declared unto him, howe that they could skantly have victuelles for ther sowldiers for ther money, and, now being driven to necessitie, dayly for very honger, many of their sowldiers dyed. He desired him to have compassion of the towne, which were the onely staye that the Kinge had not loast all in Holland withall. He proposed unto the Commandador the extreme loasses which they of Amsterdame had susteyned, and proved unto him that in thre monethes to witt, when the Duke d'Albe, his sone, beseged Harlem, they had lost 700 shippes, 16 m. howses which were bourned in their jurisdiction, and that 24 m. head of cattell had bene taken away from there, and, deductinge all thes losses particularly proved, that the dammage the susteyned, came unto 70 em. florins, sence which tyme, besides taxes they had contributed, they had allso lent money unto the Commandador, and therefore the were sent to demande the same agayne, remaininge no other meanes to defende them selves further and to prolonge the warres. The Commandador with great perplexite answered this commissioner of Amsterdam that he was most sorrye to understande those necessites of soche as had so well deserved at the Kinge's handes, and added that, if they would have his hart and boddy to doo them good, he offered it unto them, for money he had none. Unto whome replied the Commissioner that then he should doo well to make a peace. This was done 6 dayes before his death, sence which tyme he gave audience to no man, and at his deathe is it credibly reported he shold have reproched hymselfe grevously that he embraced not the peace offred unto him at the last colloquy at Breda, at which tyme the Prince offred so many different conditions that there arroase a differency betwixt the Kinge's followers.... meanyng of them, which conditions I thinke meete here to repeat, seinge at this tyme they are repeated.

The Prince, in the moneth of july last, when he broke up the colloquy, proposed unto them thes two thinges, to wit : that the . . . . . strangers retyred out of the country, and that the Estates of the country were dewly called together, and that he would stand unto that which should be by them concluded. Trueth it is that the Prince judged that by this newes he might occurr many of his enemyes' . . . . . and perswaded him self that the Estates, the estrangere beinge departed, would not renew warre for religions' sake, the warre consistinge uppon ij pointes, to witt :

relligion and desire of their liberty, whereas there be vj provinces of the Low-Country, by whose number his partes might be over come in suche an assembly. And I remember that the Prince, in november last, as I proposed unto His Excellence a certayne devise by which they Spanyardes might be revoked, and the countreyes loast unto their auncient priviledges, answered me that, if the Spanyardes were retired and the priviledges took place, that yet he should be compelled to attende a massacre of Paris continewally, and therfore were resolved to alienate the provinces of Hollande and Zelande from the King of Spayne be all meanes possible : wherfore I cannot tell whether the Prince would now propose the sayd conditions which then he proposed, unto which conditions the Estates now here do retourne, as in july last, when thes thinges were brought before the Commandador and Estates, they made a great division, for almost all condescended therunto; but Monsieur Champigny and his like sayd that this were to put the King in tutele and to make hym a warde, to bynde him as to this soart unto the Estates. And the Commendador, to avoyde the envy which was borne agaynst him for refusing thes conditions, called together a counceell of the clargy, to know ther advyce, which, fearing that ther dignity would rune to wrack, thought best that the Spanyardes should remayn, be which meanes the Commandador excused himself unto the reast. Yet were there three of ther Bysshoppes, to witt : the Bysshoppes of Andwarpe, Bruges and Ypres, which were agaynst the reast of the clergy, and never sence would come in counceell, perceavinge such indifferent conditions not to be receaved. Wherfore the Estates generally thought good to send the marquis d'Havry to Spayne and to open thes thinges unto the King, as meanes to make a peace of, if he liked so of theme. He departed the 24 of september, but never sence returned, which long abode maketh his brother, the Duke of Arschott, amased. Often tymes they have made brute of his retourne, and I remembre that the Prince in december last had newes that he and Hopper were retourning, but all was faigned of the Spanyardes. All thes thinges I have thought good to repeat here to th'intent that Your Honor may the better understande what is now a woorking, at which tyme they talke of thes conditions, which in july last were proposed. In the meane while they cease not to put to execution such entreprises as, before the Commandador departed, were concluded.

They of Dunckirk were commanded to provide 6 shippes of warre for the victuallinge of Browershaven and attemptinge of the Brill or the Plate; and this daye 500 Spanyardes marched from Aldenboro to Dunckirk to embareq them selves in thes shippes, which feare the sea and Flussingers so moche that continewally the flye out of the towne, in so moche that ther is now but one gate of the towne open, and diligent care is taken that no Spanyard depart moare out of the towne.

They which ar putt now in credit, would gladly approve there industry unto the

King, wh... lest they commande and wyne the prayse that they had done the King great service when there was no governor for him in the Lowe-Contry. And I am greatly affryed lest the sowldiers be founde now ready to obey them, then they wer to followe the commandment of Don Louys de Requesens. Surely a great occasion they have to attempt the Plat, because of the dicke which is made in Duvelande of late, wher their shippes have a harborow out of which they may make new attempts.

I understande here that the Prince, being delivered of many cares by reason of the wyninge of Crimpe, meaneth to comme into Zeland, which he shall do very wysely. I meane tomorrow to goo take me journey that way, from whence I shall be able to advertis Your Honor further.

Ther was a bruite here that the Italians, which fled from hence towards France, were defeated in Artoys by the Count of Roche, but they ar but lakes. Surely, if the Prince were able to make at this tyme the like exploite as he made by Boysott being alyve the last year against Andwarpe, it might take good effect; for it is mervelous to mareke how the people is heare stirred up by reason of the death of the Commandador in so moche that the Spanyardes speake very lowly in respect they were wont to speake.

Out of Italy they writt styll how the greatly affeare least the Turck comme this springe tyme towards Sicile, which newes trouble the Estates the moare. With thes I leave to trouble Your Honnour, besechinge the Allmighte to prosper Your Honour and to graunt you good health and luckie successe in all your procedinges and endeavours.

*In haste from Bruges, this 15<sup>th</sup> of marche 1576.*

There be certayn Englishmen which serve the Commandador at Newport, about 60. Ther chefe cappitayne is Cotton, and one Clerck, who is now in prison by Mr Pallison's meanes, for that he spoyled him uppon the seas. Ther is one of the Nollardes accused or suspected hertofore, as thoughe he woold have betrayed Yermouth unto the Duke d'Albe his men, which should have comme to the ayde of the Duke of Norfolk. Ther are ij Nollardes brother, but this Nollards, which hath a pinnys at Newport, is comme hether but of late. I did see him in Holland the last sommer, where he brought mault to sell. Ther is one Ivy likewyse, whose father dwelt at the Lyme-Howse, which hath played divers knaveryes; he camme in an english shippe towards Oostende, and afterward made the shipper to go to Flussing, and ther caused his gooddes to be confiscated, and sence hathe bene a spye ther for suche as bye gooddes there, whome he afterwarde accuseth at Oostende or wher he meateth them in Flanders.

*(Record office, Cal., n° 664.)*

MMMIII.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(14 MARS 1576.)

Excuses en faveur des Zélandais. — La mort de Charles Boisot explique ce qui s'est passé. — Requête présentée par Paul Buys. — Il est beaucoup de personnes qui attribuent à lord Burleigh les résolutions prises par la reine contre les États de Zélande. — Reproche adressé aux Anglais de n'écouter que leur intérêt. — Source de ces accusations.

I am sorry, Mi right honorable good Lordship, that the ussaiges of the Zelanders have bin suche as do provoke their fryndes here so grettly against theme, whome in dede the Prince cannot so direct as in reson he sholld, butt is fayne to tollerate many thinges with theme contrary to eqwity and to the discipline of governemente, even for the cawse and tyme sake. Being grett pittye therfore that the gretter and better sort sholld enter into the like displesure for the fawttes of a few ill men, and yett it may brede gretter inconvenyence. I speke it humbly under pardon, the deling to rowghly with that rude and rasshe kynde of men by correetyon in this begynneng, than can be reformed att leysure; for Your Lordship best knoweth how for their humour may be wrested upon the sodeyn, to late afterwarde to be called back, wherby Her Magesty may be brought into the qwarell her self (which the Spaynissh mynisters do practise) to her gretter charge than if she sholld mayntayne their whole aetyon as their commissioners do desire. By whose ruyne Her Magesty allso is made an instrument to weken her own estate, and by whose standing owtt hath had qwyettnes and security hitherto, which may decerne som pyttye, though not excuse in all. Butt now the Prynce and the Zelanders do misse their Governour, Charles Boyzott, in whose life tyme the like insolencies sholld nott have bin easely committed, wherin the diffrence of men from men is well sene.

Butt for Pawll Buis hym self, his humble and only desire is now for all conclusions (seing it cannott be otherwise) to have Her Magestic's answer in writeng, that it may serve to justiffye his fidelity and diligens, when he commes home, against the calumpnyons that wilbe opposed unto hym, wherwith dispatching hymself away he will remaine Her Magestic's humble and faythfull servant duryng life and powers to commande, with as muche duty and trew affection as ever proceeded from any; for so he sayth your worthynes and vertue byndes hym, wherof he will make honorable mention wheresoever he commes, knowing that you have wished their cawse well, butt

God determynes otherwise : craving therefore, in recompense of his travaylles here and of all his devotyons borne to the state to Her Magesty and Your Lordship in partyculer, to have your favor for this his present dispatche, in that forme he desires, wherwith he verely humbly commending hym self to Your good Lordship takes his leve.

And yett wold I be bolld to remember Your Lordship of on thing more of mi self by the waye, that being poore men they have bin att grett charges with M<sup>r</sup> Hastynge in this viaige and otherwise, more than ij m<sup>li</sup>, which your wisdom is to consider accordingly of, and they yll hable to bere ytt.

Towching that, Mi Lordship, which consernes your self, it is geven owt verely maliciously amongst gentillmen and sowdyors, and amongst those of good sort that professe the relygion, that Your Lordship hath bin the only lett and overthrowe of this Holland service, disswading Her Magesty from the enterprise, where otherwise the Erlls of Leicester and Sussex were earnest favorers and furtherers of ytt, who though they were noted of the contrary in the begynneng, yett acquited theme selves honorably and playnly throwghout the actyon in the delyng for it. They judge verely hardly that the poore men, being sent for by the Quenes Magesty, have bin by indereet delynge, contrary to her own promis and assurans, so long and mani wayes delayed here, to their utter undoyng bothe abrode and att home. Yett M<sup>r</sup> Secretery Wallsingham, they say, dellt justly with theme, in that he assured them from the begynneng that they shold obteyne nothing here, butt lose their tyme. Butt in the rest, this unworthy proceding, they say, with forein natyons, doth make us the hatredst men in the world, and to be condempned for mere abusers, as those that do putt on religion, pietye and justice for a cloke, to serve humers withall and plesse the tyme, while polycye only is made bothe justice, religion and God with us, hoping therby to passe furth the tyme in awthority, welthe and securenes, whyles the State is botched up with defformityes and errors, which threttens the overthrowe of it with the first occasion, and then nott to be lamented of any.

Which speches, Mi Lordship, the best servantes ar communely subject unto, and therefore appertaynes to your fortitude and meritts to contempne theme, as indede they be worthy, yett mete for Your Lordship to know whatt passeth, that according to your wisdom you may judge of their originall and intendement : wherin for mi knowlege and duty I have obeyed Your Lordship, in certiffieng you whatt I understood, assuryng you that your verely enmyes ar compelled to say that you be more subject to evill judgement for your good service than for evell it self.

This former speche semes (I will nott affirme it, butt by likelyhood and conjecture) to have his begynneng and ineresse of an emulation betwen Chester and Hastinges, wherof it semes also that the verely secrettes that the Cowncell and the Quene have dellt in with the Hollanders, ar betrayed abrode, and the charging of the overthrow of

this busynes uppon Your Lordship is spred amongst many, wherwith I humbly end as on redy to yeld his poore life for Your Lordship, if occasion may serve, and desiring to have agayn, it it may plesse you, mi boxe for the testimoniall of the prises of corne in Penbrokesheere.

The XIII of marche, in Redcrosse Strete 1573.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 668.)

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MMMCIV.

*M. de Champagney au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 15 MARS 1576.)

Il n'a rien négligé pour ne point perdre le fruit de ses précédentes négociations. — Entretien avec Leicester. — Les envoyés de la Hollande, voyant que la reine ne veut rien faire au point de vue de la religion, ont demandé à se retirer. — Il est utile d'entretenir la reine d'Angleterre en de si bonnes dispositions. — Fin de la session du Parlement. — Hostilité de Walsingham. — Vif désir de Champagney de quitter l'Angleterre.

Messeigneurs, Ce jourd'huy au primes ay-je receu les deux lettres de feu Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur (à qui Dieu face paix), du premier et 11<sup>e</sup> de ce mois, ne me sçaissant assez esbahir que je n'ay heu nul advertissement de vous autres, Messieurs, de son décès, estant advenu passé dix jours, et chose tant importante en la conjuncture que je me treuve par-deçà : dont toutesfois j'ay faict mon proffit, taichant toujours de négocier mon dépesche, sans monstrier d'estre asseuré de ceste nouvelle, lequel l'on me donne espérance jusques aujourd'huy que j'auray par escript avec une bonne part de l'intention de ceste Royne; car, oultre la dernière audience que j'cus hier et aujourd'huy, j'ay visité le Conte de Leicester, qui tient la chambre pour quelque petite indisposition, et ay fait divers offices par-avant vers autres, signament vers maistre Haton, par lesquels j'ay reconformé tellement ces humeurs que sembloient ung peu se esbranler. Aujourd'huy ledict Conte m'ha dict que je me puis asseurer que la Royne d'Angleterre ne changera en façon quelconque et qu'elle donnera occasion au Roy, nostre maistre, de cognoistre évidemment l'affection qu'elle luy porte et au repos des Pays-Bas. Et combien que celle Royne d'Angleterre l'autre fois me comptoit qu'elle treuvoit quelque difficulté en Aldegonde et ses collègues touchant l'exercice de la religion, si est-ce que à la fin elle me dit que c'estoit chose dont elle ne traicteroit jamais,

pour ce que à elle-mesme convenoit, comme plusieurs fois je luy avois mis en avant, et le mesmes m'ha retourné à dire le Conte, adjoustant qu'on les avoit tencé terriblement sur ce poinct. Combien que tousjours je fais estat que je ne puis rien dire au faict de cest appoinctement, comme chose sur laquelle on ne m'ha mandé autre, si est-ce que je n'ay délaissé de les escouter et de rembarer et rabattre toutes les choses que bonnement j'ay peu par formes de divises et discours seulement. Néantmoins tousjours ils retournent là-dessus, et je les souffre, comme j'ay diet, de peur qu'ils ne facent le sault en ceste conjuncture, leur ayant discouru que, par la mort de Son Excellence, ils n'ont occasion de se laisser forcompter, ains leur ay paint leur estat de telle couleur que, quoyque nous advienne, non-seullement il ne leur convient de rompre contre le Roy, mais que plustost ils se doibvent joindre avec luy, pour ce que aucuns dient qu'il est nécessaire que la jeunesse d'Angleterre et le nombre des gens qu'il y ha, s'occupe en quelque guerre, pour la paix mesmes du royaume. Et pour leur oster le scrupule de leur secte quasi commune au moins, quant à l'erreur principal, je leur dis que les derniers troubles des Pays-Bas ne sont succédés à cause de la religion, mais bien que les hérétiques par après ont abusé de ceste occasion, et que le Princee d'Oranges n'a pas gardé ce qu'il avoit promis, à son entrée en Hollande et Zélande, assçavoir qu'il n'altérerait nul estat, ny la religion en son exercice, et que pour tant il est absurde que maintenant ces gallans vueillent préférer ce point à tous autres et postposer tout debvoir et le repos publicq à ceste cause qu'ils ont introduit secondairement. Or, aux lettres susdictes de Son Excellence, j'ay à mon advis satisfait assez à tout par divers miennes, qu'on aura receu depuis. Quant à ce qu'il diet de Anthoine de Guarras, l'on ha voulu me monstrier les lettres qu'ils tiennent de luy interceptées, desquelles ils se plaignent fort et des mauvais offices qu'il ha faict pour aigrir le Roy, nostre maistre, contre ceste Royne d'Angleterre, lesquels ils s'offrent à monstrier qu'ils sont esté contrevués: de quoy toutesfois je me suis démeslé jusques astheure sans les veoir. Le Conte de Leicester m'ha compté aussi qu'il ha quasi esté cause de la mort de la Royne d'Écosse, pour s'estre ingéré en ses affaires plus avant qu'il ne luy convenoit, et je seay que le Conte de Leicester la soustient. Sur l'assistance qu'il se donne à nos ennemis, la Royne nye fort et ferme que ce soit de son adveu; mais j'ay bien assez diet que son Conseil pour le moings ne le peult, ny ne le doit ignorer, et qu'il estoit bien remédiable en ung pays d'où on ne peult sortir aysément comme cestuy-cy; mais je n'en ay peu tirer plus de ce que j'ay escript. Il est passé plus de 2,000 Escossois à l'assistance de nos ennemis dois naguières, et d'icy, si bien il y vat quelque chose à ce qu'on diet, ne sont [que] petites troupes et grande canaille, de laquelle ils dient qu'ils désirent que le pays soit deschargé, pour éviter plus grands maux et afin que ailleurs ils soient chastoyés comme ils méritent. J'ay faict semblant au Conte que Son Excellence m'avoit respondu bien peu pour son indisposition, afin de non trecher l'esperoir qu'ils conçoivent que leur



Royne d'Angleterre sera ouye pour appoincter : aultrement sans faulte on perdra tout ce que a esté faict avec eulx jusques astheure, et, pour l'éviter et les entretenir, je insiste vers eulx qu'il convient que sur ce poinet ils facent les plus vifs offices qu'ils pourront et avec la sincérité qu'ils me dient, pour restablir l'ancienne confidence et que le Roy perde l'oppinion qu'il ha que ses rebelles se sont soustenus principalement par la faveur de ce royaume, et qu'en ceey, ceste Royne procède de sorte que ce luy soit justification devant tout le monde et tesmoignaige évident plus que le jour de sa bonne volonté. Cela ay-je bien diet avoir entendu que le marquis de Havrey et le résident Hopperus seroient en bref pardeçà, et que possible on attendoit ce qu'ils debvroient apporter; mais je n'ay voulu faire aucun semblant que Son Excellence m'eust respondu de n'avoir nul ordre du Roy, car sa mort excuse tout; et quant aux lettres de Sa Majesté Catholique, qui sont venues avec celles de Son Excellence, je ne feray encoires semblant de les avoir, tant qu'ils m'ayent donné mon dépesche, lequel aultrement je n'auray que de bouche ou de mauvaise grâce; car la Royne mesmes se plaint que, pour ces longueurs; elle crainet qu'elle ne pourrat retenir Aldegonde et ses compaignons. Leur présence, quant ceulx-cy voudroient avoir mauvaise intention, ne faict ny chaud, ny froid, pour ce que les plus grandes persuasions et sollicitations sont desnaturées, ains la présence de ceulx-cy endommaige plustost à présent leurs affaires, pour l'oultreucy-dance qu'on blasme astheure en eulx. Voires je sçay qu'ils ont sollicité leur partement, ayant entendu l'intention de la Royne d'Angleterre touchant leur religion, laquelle elle déteste terriblement, et je n'ay failly de la charger de sédition bien avant et de la doubte que les monarques en doibvent avoir, et tiens qu'il vaudroit mieulx de entretenir la Royne d'Angleterre en espérance; car, celle-là perdue, elle donne assez à entendre qu'elle veult trouver moyen pour asseurer ses affaires, comme j'ay souvent eserit : je ne sçay s'il nous conviendrait astheure qu'elle changeast de volonté. Laissons à part toutes autres considérations : pourtant sans faulte j'aymerois mieulx que ces lettres du Roy ne fussent parvenues, lesquelles, si je osois, sans faulte je ne les présenteroye point; car, pour entretenir le temps, les ayant veu comme désespérés par ceste mort de Son Excellence, disant qu'il n'y aura jamais fin, je leur ay mis quasi en teste qu'il vaudroit myeulx qu'ils renvoyassent en Espagne, car ils vouloient faire solliciter aux Pays-Bas, nonobstant la mort de Son Excellence et la suspension d'armes et les accords qu'ils prétendent, ce que je leur ay dit seroit là astheure superflu et suspect, si tant fût qu'il fût mort, mais qu'ils ne debvoient abandonner pour tant leur bonne intention. Et croyez, Messieurs, que tout gist à les entretenir, sur quoy j'ay fait tout debvoir, et n'y sçau-rois davantaige, tellement que, ayant mon dépesche, je ne puis faire autre que de me partir incontinent, pour retourner servir ma charge, si vous le treuvez bon, et que vous m'en donniés le moien, car ceulx d'Anvers m'ont envoié courrier exprès me requerrans de mon retour. Cependant je vous supplie très-humblement les avoir pour recomman-

dés. Aussi je me treuve tant travaillé d'indispositions et de l'air de ce pays dois l'heure que je y suis entré, que je n'en puis quasi plus, et sens fort bien que à la longue il ne me cousteroit pas moins que la vie. Je vous prie pareillement, Messeigneurs, que je puisse avoir en tout événement de vos nouvelles : d'ores en avant aussi je ne sçay à qui correspondre, ny n'ay de quoy le faire, ayant satisfait le mieulx que j'ay sceu à tous les poincts de ma charge, me confiant que, dois la mort de Son Excellence, vous aultres, Messeigneurs, en aurez donné compte au Roy, et le donnerez de ce que vous trouverez convenir. D'autre part, le Parlement s'est achevé ce jourd'huy et l'heust desjà esté hier, ne fût que la Royne y entrat trop tard, et qu'il y heust quelques difficultés sur ce qu'on luy proposat de déclairer son successeur ou à qui elle se voudroit marier. Jusque icy encoires ne sçay-je la conclusion qu'on y ha prins, car elle avoit demandé termes jusques à ce jourd'huy qu'il aura esté bien tard quand elle serat retournée. L'on dit aussi que Milord Hauwart portera la jarretière au Roy de France. Walsingham reffuse fort d'aller avec: ceulx qui le voudroient hors de ce royaume, le poursuyvent, et dient qu'il y seroit bien nécessaire, pour ce que leur ambassadeur illecques ne les contente. C'est le plus pernicious pour nous, qui pourroit estre par-deçà: nos amis mesmes tachent de le mettre dehors. Il a eu quasi parolles avec la Royne d'Angleterre sur mes négociations, sur quoy ladicte Royne d'Angleterre se meit en si grand colère et le rabrouat tellement, parlant à ma deffence, qu'il s'en vint plaindre au Conte de Leicester, où il ne trouva guières meilleur accueil, et cecy ay-je sceu de deux ou trois licux, voire que la Royne d'Angleterre dit que à quelques calvinistes ou puditains il favorisoit plustost que à ceulx qui la venoient conseiller pour son bien, comme je faisoys. Haton et le Contre-rolleur Craft se sont si bien déportés en ce Parlement qu'ils ont gagné grand crédit et pourront d'ores en avant non seul avec la Royne, mais autant en tous endroicts que nuls autres. Ils tiennent bon pour nous et sont estimés catholicques, et je serois d'avis que on les entalast et le Conte de Leicester qui, me semble, voudroit avoir honneur et la grâce de Sa Majesté Catholique du bien que la Royne d'Angleterre pourroit faire. Bref, je ne puis sinon bien espérer jusques icy, s'il se peult avoir foy au dire, promesses et sermens des princes, seigneurs et gentilshommes. Je voy bien que le changement est fort facile, mais Dieu doint que nous n'y donnions nulle occasion et que les ministres taichent plustost d'entretenir amitié que de la rompre; car, autant qu'ils louent le seigneur Diégo de Guysman (duquel ils n'achèvent de dire assez de bien, encoires qu'il soit Espagnol), autant détestent-ils l'arrogance ombreuse d'autres. Enfin je ne sçay sinon traicter la vérité, bien ou mal qu'il en advienne; et, si j'ay le second en ce monde, pour cela j'espère que Dieu me fera grasse du premier.

De Londres, ce xv<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Publié par M. de Robaulx, *Mém. de Champagne*, p. 397.)

## MMMCV.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(15 MARS 1576.)

Propositions de Paul Buys. — Il proteste de son dévouement à la reine d'Angleterre, et l'on peut compter sur son zèle à servir secrètement sa cause; car il sait que l'on ne peut rien attendre de la France, qu'elle soit protestante ou papiste.

My right honorable good Lordship, I have lett Pawll Buis understand of the good estymatyon that you have him in, and of the good that ye wysshe unto the cawse, butt withhall of the grett hyndrance that these insolencies have procured to theme in generall, which he doth assure me shall nott happen agayn, yf they ones may com home to sett an order in thinges, desyng that there may be on or ij of credite and discretion appoynted to resyde there with theme by Her Majesty, to observe, examyne and determine of all complayntes and spoyles att their charges, whose presence allso (being deputed from the Quenes Majesty of England) shalbe of no small force to repress even the verey intendementes of yll attemptes, and, being attempted, to have the severer restitutyon and correctyon.

To which end, to shew their good menyng for perfformyng of this, they will appoint ij suffyeyent partyes here att their own charges lykewise, to be redy to answer all complayntes and to terrefye those that wolld surmise contrary matter than is probable: whereunto, he added, strykeng his hand on his brest, that Your Lordship was the only man (*quod ingenue fateor aiebat*) that hath dellt syncerelyest with theme, and in effect that dyd truly favour theyr cawse, bothe in secrett and otherwise, and yett were forced to give theme hard wordes accordyng to the allteratyon that tyme, partyes and occasyons dyd mynister, which kynde of fre procedyng he dyd prefferre beffore all other, and alledgeth withhall that it is necessary that these open demonstratyon sholld be, asswell to satisfye the Prince that commandes, as strange Ambassadors that ar redy to harken to every thing that shalbe pronouncd.

Desirows, therefore, where his colleages dyd exhibite a request to Her Majesty, which they wolld nedes do, because they importune him dayly to more than that is, that he and they might receive theyr answer, yf it so plesed you, by Your Lordship and from Your Lordship, of whom he only and wholly doth deppend, which Your Lordship shall truly know by his devotyon and by the contynuall and often memory that he will have of you, when he shalbe in place where to expresse it. Desireng moreover Your

Lordship in secrett to saye unto Her Majesty from hym, as her true and faythfull servant allwayes, that now all thinges standing in Flanders and Brabant as they do by the dethe of the Commendador and by the displesure that the people have in generall to the Spaynissh governement, that he will intertayne suche a disposytyon in the myndes of their leders (which he is hable to do) towards Her Majesty, as she, without semyng to dele with ani thing, shall yett direct all and prescribe whatt lawe she will unto theme or ani other by theme, and without that they shall deppend of none, wherby Spayne, yf it receves ani grace, yt shalbe by her, and Frawnce (whose levytye he well knowes, and of whom Her Majesty, be ytt ether of protestant or papist, hath butt smally to trust), yf they do make a pece with the Kinge, shall have butt hard favor in practiseng or attemptyng ani novelltyes or fowndatyon with theme. Concludyng further that whatt cawse or partye soever Her Majesty or Your Lordship shall addresse over unto him, shalbe lovyngly and humbly received, and dispatched for his power and credyte (with that fayth, diligens and secrecy that becommes him) to her and your contentment, esteming that the grettest satisfactyon that may com to hym, yf his good menyng be as threwhly known to you bothe as he desireth, wherof itt may plesce Your Lordship, seing these cawses be weighty and commytted to mi trust, that you will wryte me somwhatt in answer agayne, and that in the end yt may appere unto hym, by your owne speche or wryteng, that I have discharged mi parte as a good servant to Her Majesty and Your Lordship, and as on that hath faythfully behaved mi selff towards him and the commune cawse.

I wolld pray Your Lordship, yf it so may plesce you, that my man may receive mi boxe agayn, that conteynes the testymoniall for the pryses of corne in Penbrokeshire, wherwith verely humbly I take mi leve.

xv<sup>th</sup> marche 1575.

(Record office, Cal., n° 669.)

### MMMCVI.

#### *Le prince d'Orange à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(DELFT, 16 MARS 1576.)

Il lui annonce le renvoi de Lucrezia d'Affaytadi.

Madame, J'ay esté bien fort estonné, voyant par la lettre qu'il a pleu à Votre Majesté m'escire par Mons<sup>r</sup> Herbert qu'elle a prins tant à cœur qui est advenu à la demoiselle Lucretia de Affetadi accompagnée de Mons<sup>r</sup> Johan Cobham, pour avoir par ung de nos

capitaines de mer esté conduicts vers l'isle de Walcheren, prétextant Votre Majesté de cela comme s'il auroit esté faict au mespris et contemnement d'icelle. Mais pour y respondre je ne puis délaissier de dire à Votre Majesté que ledit capitaine, poursuyvant selon l'ancien usage de la guerre, nos ennemis, a exécuté ce faict devant jamais avoir secu que ladite damoiselle estrangère estoit advouée de Votre Majesté. A quoy il luy plaira avoir regard de tant plus que moy-mesmes ne suis aussy esté adverty de rien, dont ne m'a esté le moyen pour y pouvoir remédier en temps. Et toutesfois je ne veulx icy pour ce regard user d'autre excuse, puisque Votre Majesté peult facilement considérer que ne voudrions jamais par-deçà luy donner auleune occasion de mescontentement, ayant tout ce pays faict paroistre à Votre Majesté le désir qu'il a de l'avoir pour dame et se mettre sous son obéyssance et en sa protection, ce qui peult assez tesmoigner à Votre Majesté de la sincérité de notre bonne volonté, et aussy combien nous sommes esloigné de vouloir faire ou entreprendre chose qui pourroit aulcunement toucher sa réputation ou amoindrir l'autorité et priviléges que les roys et roynes d'Angleterre ont eu aux pays circumvoysins. Veu mesmes que de tout notre pouvoir et au pris de notre vie désirons maintenir, amplifier et augmenter l'autorité et grandeur de Votre Majesté, et la mener avecq l'ayde de Dieu au comble de ses désirs. Qui est cause, Madame que moy et tous ceulx de par-deçà voulons espérer que Votre Majesté, comme princesse désirant le bien et conservation de ce pouvre pays tant affligé et qui d'ung cœur si franc et libre s'est mis en la protection et sous l'obéyssance d'icelle, ne doit estre marrie que cerchons tous moyens possibles pour nous maintenir contre les ennemis de Votre Majesté et les nôtres, les poursuyvant et endommageant partout selon notre pouvoir, et mesmes les particuliers que sçavons estre du nombre de ceulx qui journellement assistent notre partie adverse à entretenir la guerre contre nous, et desquels en les attrappant pouvons en récompense retirer quelque notable prouffict, comme nous maintenant nous pourrions avoir de ceste demoiselle, en advancement de notre très-juste et très-équitable cause, la somme de vingt mille ducats. Ce nonobstant, puisqu'il a pleu à Votre Majesté sur ce nous escrire son intention, ne vueillans de notre part avoir tant d'esgard à nostre bon droiet et à la cause générale, laquelle toutesfois à bon droiet devoit estre préférée, puis mesmes qu'il y va de la gloire de Dieu, avons, ce néantmoins, mieulx aymé de satisfaire au désir et bonne volonté de Votre Majesté, luy renvoyant ladite damoiselle avecq ses bagues et hardes, afin que de plus en plus Votre Majesté puisse cognoistre l'entier désir et sincère affection que nous avons de luy faire service et rendre toute très-humble obéyssance.

Madame, baisant très-humblement les mains de Votre Majesté, je supplieray Dieu octroyer à icelle, en très-parfaicte sancté, très-heureuse et longue vie.

Escript à Delft, ce xvj<sup>e</sup> jour de mars 1576.

(*British Museum, Nero, B. VI, n<sup>o</sup> 171.*)

MMMCVII.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(16 MARS 1576.)

Remerciments de Paul Buys pour l'accueil que lord Burleigh a fait à ses propositions. — Champagney verrait volontiers, dit-on, Elisabeth interposer sa médiation. — Un avis reçu de Calais annonce que M. de Revers est arrivé à Flessingue, chargé par Henri III de négocier avec le prince d'Orange la remise de la Zélande aux Français. — Mort d'un cousin de Requesens.

Your letter, Mi right honorable good Lordship, that I receved this mornyng, hath nott a lyttell comforted mi dulled spirites, to se the honorable and religious affectyon that you bere so earnestly to these matters of Holland, which doth also so satisfye Pawll Buys (who was with me all this forenoone to passe furth ths werynes of tyme), as he protestes that Your Lordship shall se good frute verely shortly uppon his commyng hence of the servyce that he pretendes to this crowne and to Her Magesty, to whom he vowes hemself wholly, and all the cowrse that he and his natyon shall take in their actyons to be directed and commanded entyerly by Her Majesty and non other, and doth make himself bolld and hable to entertayne others of the Lowe-Country in the same devotyon towards Her Magesty *ita ut pendeant ex ejus nutu*, which, Gol wil- leng, he is to performe, with lyke care and duty, abhorryng no les, he sayth, from the French commencementes and leages than he argues theme of levity and trecherye in their procedinges, and of all other the most insolent where they have power to com- mande. Nether shall his natyon have further intelligence with ani other strangers or neighbors, then as ytt may well plese Her Magesty to lyke of and allowe. Gyveng Your Lordship most humble thanekes that it woldd plese you to do hym that honour, and lett hym understand the inward good disposityons of Your Lordship, and the better sorte here enclyned to favor their communc cawse, and that where the same doth nott so owttwardly appere for other respectes, and that yett the inward parte doth carye the stronger menyng and force with it, wherof he was throwly perswaded, he sayth, for Your Lordship's own parte beffore, knowyng uppon whatt vertue and reson ye grownd, butt muche the more confirmed by your own speche in this now, and rejoyced to knowe others joynd with you allso, assuryng Your Lordship that, as in partyeler your travayles and favors for theme do lyvely expresse your owne worthynes, so in generall shall they nott be unremembred by those uppon whom ye bestowe theme, besyde that God will reward this goodnes of yowres, for whom they will contynually pray, and for

Her Magesty and this Estate, attending the good howre for their dispathe hence, when Your Lordship shall have procured it, of whom they deppend.

Toweling Champagnye, yt is lykely on waye that he desires Her Magesty, and menes yt in good earnest, to be the awthor of a peace bettween these men and Kinge Phillip, to th'end he may merytte the more favour of the contrey, yf yt be procured by his mediatyon, and therby exlude the awthorytye of the Spaniardes, the which he mislykes nott so muche as he feres ; for, by that letter which was interceped by the Hollanders and delivered Your Lordship, ytt apperes that he is shrewdly manassed by the Spaniardes, and since that tyme, duryng hys being here, they have examined a prysoner in Andwarp of sondry matters abowt hym, giveng him the torture thryse to make hym confesse the allegatyons agaynst the sayd Champignye, yett another waye he bath as yll a menyng as the worst, that having established a government to his owne fancye and credyte there then to introduce the Inquisyton, which shall troble and confownd thinges as yll as beffore <sup>1</sup>.

For these matter that I advertised Your Lordship to be spred of you abowt these Hollanders, I dyd ytt of a trew and zelows dutye that I bere unto you, and so verey humbly I desire you to interpret of me ; for soner shall mi brethe expire than I fayll to expresse how derely and faythfully I esteme those thinges that appertayne to Your Honnour and estymatyon, which being malyceyowsly towelhed, is to be mett withall, as otherwise to be contemptned, while Your Lordship dothe holld that cowrse that ye do, which may be imytated by fewe, butt attayned by non ; and otherwise God confownd me, yf I speke nott as I mene, of which oppynion the best and wysest sort ar of, and this grettnes, being joyned with the charytye that is in you towards your maligners, doth make you dooble worthy of your calling and rarenes <sup>2</sup>.

This evenyng, as I had wrytten this far unto Your Lordship, Pawll Buys advertised me with som spede that they receved letters from Calyce, whiles he was absent with me to daye, written from on Charles de Bewlyew, agent for the Prince of Orenge in Calyce, that on Monsieur de Revers passed by owtt of Frawnce, sent by the Kinge to speke with theme, the commissyoners of Holland here, to staye their actyons from

<sup>1</sup> Champagney écrira plus tard dans ses Mémoires « qu'ayant esté envoyé en Angleterre pour divertir la royne des entreprises de guerre que de tous costés on advertissoit qu'elle avoit en main, non-seulement il estaignit ce feu de très-grande conséquence, mais rapporta de très-grandes et avantageuges ouvertures pour pacifier en brief les différens par l'intervention de ceste princesse avec le rétablissement de la religion catholique et conservation de l'autorité de Sa Majesté. »

<sup>2</sup> On voit par une lettre de Requesens à Philippe II, du 24 décembre 1575, qu'il n'ignorait point les négociations qui se poursuivaient entre Henri III et le prince d'Orange (GACHARD, *Correspondance de Philippe II*, t. III, p. 489.). Cependant Catherine de Médicis avait vivement recommandé d'agir de telle sorte que l'ambassadeur d'Espagne à Paris ne pût rien en découvrir.

delyng by all menes ani further with Her Magesty, telling the said agent that the Frenche Kinge wolld presently send a good force to possesse Zelande, to prevent ani others that sholld do ytt, and that he wolld be Master of ytt, who soever sayd to the contrary : which Revers was browght over to Flusshing in the passaige that the Portingalle's spowse was in, and there is detayned for a colowr bycawse he sholld nott be knowen to the rest of the strangers, being a partye that the Prince hath used in matters of intelligence bettween the Frenche King and hym; and therefore the said Revers dyd the more confydently ympart this muche with Charles de Bewlyew, the Prince's agent, wherin the danger is somwhatt, yf the Frenche Kinge do attempt it beffore they be gon over to settell thinges, bycawse Hawkin is governour of Flusshing, and a mere Frencheman, favoryng the Frenche Kinge's parte with toothe and nayll : which advertisement the sayd Pawll Buys is desirows that Your Lordship and Her Magesty sholld understand with all spede, alledging uppon his fayth and christianity that he doth nott present ytt as a matter ether to prevayll the more by or to accelerate thinges the rather, butt to be consydered of Her Magestie's wisdom and yowres, to geve suche order theryn as shalbe thought convenyent by you, accordyng to the expedityon and ymportans that it is of.

I thinck that Your Lordship hard that on Don Piedro de Swazzo, a Spanyard, cosyn to the late Commendador, was drowned in the passayge of Gravessend, who had about him v<sup>e</sup> ducats and bylles of exchange for 5000 ducats more, the gelowsye wherof is somwhatt that he beinge no merchant, nor havyng any charge or trayne, butt on man, that this furniture was for som praetys, wherwith I humbly take mi leve.

In haste at x of the clock att night, the xvj of marche 1575.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 673.*)

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MMMCVIII.

*Ordre adressé au bailli de Nieuport.*

(16 MARS 1576.)

Il lui est enjoint, au nom du roi, de restituer immédiatement le navire du capitaine Cotton.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 674.*)

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## MMMCIX.

*M. de Champagney au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 17 MARS 1576.)

Difficulté des négociations. — Entretien avec la reine Élisabeth, qui a insisté de nouveau sur ses offres de médiation. — Détails sur les principaux conseillers d'Élisabeth et sur leurs dispositions. — Leicester. — Burleigh. — Sussex. — Arundel. — Walsingham. — Élisabeth est fort hostile aux calvinistes.

Messeigneurs, La mort de Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur de Castille, à qui Dieu face paix, me constraint de changer stile selon les occurences que j'apperçois icy, l'estat des affaires et les humeurs, et m'ha semblé que je devois doresenavant procurer par toutes voyes de retenir ces gens tant qu'en moy seroit, afin qu'ils ne facent quelque changement avec cest incident et pour tirer d'eulx par escript ce que je pourray, pour nous assurer de leur intention, suyvant ce qu'ils m'ont accordé, et je l'accepterai à quelque fin que ce soit, de sorte qu'ils ne se puissent retirer sans manquer évidemment à leur parole, et pour cecy il fault que je leur concède plusieurs choses pour éviter de les altérer, afin de ne les perdre du tout et les entretenir plustost en leur espérance, entretant qu'elle ne nous est manifestement préjudiciable, voire je les dois ayder à les y confermer, cependant que de nostre part rien ne s'oblige, évitant tout ce que au contraire de cecy les pourroit faire vaciler, car le changement seroit facile, si une fois ils commençoient à bransler <sup>1</sup>. Pour cecy, j'ay faict divers offices le plus dextrement que j'ay peu, tant vers le Conte de Licestre (comme j'ay attainct par autres miennes) que sous main vers aultres, monstrant tousjours et preuvant par toutes les raisons que j'ay peu, que, ores que ledict seigneur Grand-Commandeur fût mort, il n'y auroit aucune diversité en nuls affaires, et que vostre Conseil d'Etat pourvoieroit à tout incontinent, ne plus, ne moins que si le chief n'y manquoit, leur persuadant que ceulx qui s'imaginent que les pieques des nations causeront de grandes altercations, s'abusent et qu'elles ne sont telles qu'on les paint, mesmes entre les chiefs, qui tous s'adressent à la fin au service du Roy; car il leur fault aussy concéder quelque chose de ce qu'ils sçavent, pour leur faire croire ce que convient. Et pour m'autoriser en

<sup>1</sup> Le même jour, Fogaça écrivait de Londres à Çayas :

When the newcs came of the death of the Commendador, I was about to write unto him that he should send hether some trusty person, by whome I might discover unto him the meanes howe His Majestye be revenged of his ennemies, a matter I durst not commit to writing.

toutes ces choses, j'eus bien voulu quelque avertissement de vous autres, Messieurs, du moins de la mort de Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, qui est survenue passé jà douze jours; car, véant si peu de correspondences, ils auront à mespris ma légation, laquelle ils estimeront plustost rélégation que aultre chose, comme ont faict auleuns mieuls informés de nos humeurs de par delà qu'il ne nous conviendroit. Je dis eecy signamment, pour ce que m'ayant hier fait appeller ceste Roynne, pour entendre (ce me sembla-il) quelles nouvelles j'avois, et entendant que de la Court je luy donnois seulement compte des deux dernières lettres que j'ay heu de feu Son Excellence, elle m'assurat sa mort, et me dict de plus que vostre Conseil d'Etat avoit entrepris le gouvernement, et fait chief Monseigneur le Duc d'Arshot et déclaré pour capitaine-général Monsieur le Comte de Mansfelt : louant le bon advis de vous autres, Messieurs. Je dis que je croyoy qu'on auroit faict comme elle disoit, car tousjours Monseigneur le duc d'Arshot avoit tenu ce lieu pour les gouverneurs-généralx. Sur cela elle me dict si je pensoy que le Roy donneroit quelquesfois ceste charge à quelcun du pays. Je dis que je n'en sçavoy rien. A quoy elle suyvit qu'il ne s'estoit encoires veu que le Roy se servit, en provinces où il n'estoit, de généralx du mesme pays, sans passer plus outre. Moy je tins tousjours ma négociation, comme incertain de la mort de Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, bien qu'il estoit si malade que à peine m'avisoit-il que de la réception des miennes, mais aussi que, ores qu'elle fût vraye, je sçavoys qu'elle ne causeroit nul changement. A cela elle me respondit que si feroit, au respect de ce qu'elle avoit faict négocier par Coban en Espagne, car le Roy l'avoit renvoyé, à ce qu'il escrivoit, au Grand-Commandeur, et se commençoit sur cecy ung petit à piequer et aigrir. Je luy dis que à la mort il n'y avoit remède, et que le Roy pourroit bien donner la mesme charge à ung autre, s'il estoit ainsi comme Coban rapportoit. Lors elle me dict. « Et quoy, me faudroit-il de rechief envoyer en Espagne? » Je dis que aultre part je tenois que non-seulement il seroit inutile, mais mal à propos. Et voyant qu'elle s'esquartoit sur le mespris auquel il sembloit que le Roy, nostre sire, la avoit, avec plusieurs autres propos, disant que le Roy de France la requéroit de moiennner les troubles de ce royaume-là, auquel elle enveroit, et qu'enfin elle estoit roynne, et non des moindres potentats, qu'elle désiroit le bien du Roy, nostre maistre, et qu'il luy emportoit aussi à son royaume d'elle de considérer l'issue des affaires du Pays-Bas, je la ramennas, le plus doucement que je sceus, par plusieurs raisons longues à réciter, respondant à diverses objections, et luy déclairant plusieurs inconveniens, si entre elle et le Roy, nostre maistre, la jalousie croissoit; que je pouvois dire ainsi, sçachant qu'elle ne procédoit que de l'amitié qu'ils se portent; que, s'il luy sembloit que le Roy l'heust à mespris, aussi le Roy possible ne sçavoit comme bien s'asseurer d'elle, la voiant en une religion contraire, et que tous se persuadoient que, ne fût le secours et faveur que ceulx d'Hollande et Zélande tirent de ce royaume, jà

pièça les travaux des Pays-Bas fussent finis. Lors elle me commençat à dire que de vray elle ayroit le Roy, son frère, et qu'elle desiroit le luy faire paroistre, nyant constamment de jamais avoir fomenté nuls rebelles, comme autres fois. A quoy se répliquat, et se dit de tous costels ce que par plusieurs j'ay escrit, et davantaige. Enfin elle me comptat plusieurs choses par où je ne la puis estimer tant affolée de sa religion, me disant comme elle avoit tencé ceulx de Hollande et Zélande, et les offices qu'elle avoit faict pour les persuader à laisser derrière ce point de la religion, et qu'on ne pensât jamais qu'elle deust presser le Roy à chose qui fût contre elle-mesmes; qu'elle estoit royne, qui sçavoit ce que requéroit son estat, et que celluy l'obligeoit à maintenir le party du nostre, et que, ores qu'elle fût femme, que son degré et charge luy avoit enseigné à se taire : par où elle me requéroit que je m'en assurasse, mesmes que ses propres Conseillers ne sçavoient jamais chose que je luy disse, comme jà elle m'hat dit autres fois, me priant de luy parler ouvertement, puisqu'elle avoit ceste opinion que j'estois homme francq, et que, congnoissant sa bonne intention, comme elle m'avoit tant déclaré, je l'aydasse à ung si bon œuvre.

Après les responses que méritoit une si grande faveur, qu'elle ampliffiat assez plus que je ne dis, je la confermas en la bonne estime qu'elle doit avoir du Roy, nostre maistre, et l'exhortas à faire telles preuves qu'il perdit tout ombre et peust congnoistre sa bonne volonté. Et ayant discouru de plusieurs choses, elle s'arrestat de renvoyer derechief en Espagne, et je vouldroy maistre Haton, qui est de grandissime crédit vers elle et tenu plustost pour catholique que autrement. Elle m'hat dit aussi de me vouloir dépescher déans ung jour ou deux, comme si le Grand-Commandeur vivoit, puisque je n'ay nouvelle du contraire, et j'ay impétré que ce serat par escript.

Or, comme à vous autres, Messeigneurs, rien ne se doit celler en nul temps, et moins à cest' heure, je leur veulx bien discourir ce que j'ay treuvé et congnu aux humeurs d'icy, dont ils pourront faire jugement, et la advertence, telle qu'il leur semblera, à Sa Majesté, tant du contenu de ceste lettre (s'il vous semble qu'elle le mérite) que des autres miennes précédentes, s'il y ha chose qui le vaille : ce que j'estime seroit mieulx par voye d'Italie, et plus seurement; car il viendroit trop mal, si ces choses tombioient en mains des François.

J'ay treuvé le Conte de Licestre tel que par quelques miennes j'ay déclaré. Il a esté tenu pour françois : à présent je puis dire qu'il se m'est monstré tant affectionné à cest affaire et au Roy, nostre maistre, et par luy et par autres, que plusieurs sont fort esbahis de ceste mutation. Et m'ha parlé tel langaige qu'il semble qu'il se ha voulu justifier avec moy de l'opinion qu'on avoit qu'il fût françois, comme de calomnie, et proteste l'obligation au Roy que j'ay diet, réservant tousjours le devoir envers sa maistresse. C'est ung homme ami de gloire et de réputation, qui vouldroit, à ce que je comprens, avoir la principale part en l'estimation de la ressortie de ceste

besongne et de la bonne raccoinctance du Roy, nostre maistre, avec ceste Royne. Il est pour la religion que la Royne observe icy, mais ennemi des calvinistes et puritains, et moy je n'ay pas advocassé pour eulx.

Le Grand-Trésorier d'Angleterre est estimé puritain, qui est son ennemy. Autrement il se montre fort affectionné au service de la Royne, et entretient sa faveur, servant à la condition d'elle, qui est chiche : par où il se faict mal voulcir de beaucoup d'autres, et luy-mesmes est intentif principalement à faire ses affaires. Voilà pourquoy il embrassa Antonio de Guarras, et se servit de son moien pour faire les appointemens des arrests, où tous ceulx qui s'en meslèrent (à ce que j'os) firent bien leurs besongnes vers tous les autres. Ledict Antonio de Guarras est en l'opinion que j'ay escrit, encoires que je ne pense pas qu'il le mérite, et je l'en ay adverty, afin qu'il regarde à soy, car il me semble qu'ils avoient envie de luy faire une bourle, d'autant que le Conte de Licestre et Maistre Haton se sont enquis fort curieusement de moy, pour sçavoir s'il avoit charge du Roy. Je dis que je pensois que si, car le Roy, nostre maistre, l'intituloit *su creato*; mais, pour non me rendre odieux, je fis monstre que je n'avois autre congnoissance estroite avec luy, pour en pouvoir donner plus grand compte et pour éviter qu'on ne m'en demandât davantage : bien dis-je que j'avois veu plusieurs lettres siennes par delà que je vis en estime, comme de ministre, mais que je n'avois jamais entendu, ny apperceu qu'il fit aultres offices que bons.

Le Conte de Sussex s'est fait ami dois naguères dudict Conte de Licestre, et ores sont intrinséquissimes. C'est l'une des meilleures testes que j'ay treuvé icy, mais on le tient pour homme qui se sçait accommoder. Il faict profession d'estre affectionné à nostre Roy, comme il a tousjours faict, et si est estimé catholique, néantmoins qu'en ce Parlement il proposoit que l'on fit quelques édicts plus rigoureux contre ceulx qui ne suyvent la religion de la Royne; mais l'on tient que ce hat esté plus pour couverte et pour se congratier avec le Conte de Licestre, que pour estre telle son intention; et le mesme Conte de Licestre, je croy qu'il la soustient autant pour réputation que pour autre chose, homme qui est plus suffisant qu'on ne m'avoit dit, mais ami de pompe, apparence et de ses passe-temps.

Le Conte d'Arondel est tenu manifestement pour catholique, affectionné, et bien fort, aux choses de nostre Roy, avec lequel j'ay tenu fort estroicte correspondance, et suys esté cause que souvent il est allé en Court, car il tient la maison à cause de sa gouste, selon les exigences, combien que je ne l'ay visité, ny veu que une fois; mais sans faulte il s'est monstré fort affectionné, et le Contrerolleur Craft, qui est ung grand cerveau, est tenu aussy pour catholique. Lesquels deux ont embrassé tellement nos affaires, encoires que avec le second aussi j'ay monstré peu de semblant en publicq, que, fondés sur les raisons que j'avois mis en avant, ils ont osé donner par escript leur opinion, par laquelle ils maintenoient que la Royne ne devoit prendre en main l'estat

des rebelles, ains se conserver en l'amitié du Roy, nostre maistre : de quoy la Royne s'est fort armée contre les autres de son Conseil, ausquels je ne sçai que nous ayons auleune part, ny la vraye religion. Ce mesme Craft avoit des grands envieux, et estoit supprimé pour catholique; mais en ce Parlement, pour avoir prins deux ou trois fois la parole fort efficacement, choses qui estoient au goust de la Royne, et avec ses aultres offices, il est entré en tel crédit, et Maistre Haton, qu'il convient grandement de les entretenir, et les Contes susdicts, signament celluy de Licestre.

Quant à Ciel, grand-trésorier d'Angleterre, sa mesme inclination le rendra facile, si on en veult user : qui est ung homme fort entendu, mesmes pour les choses de ce royaume, et qui en somme faict le travail de toutes affaires de Walsingen (j'en ay escript aultrefois), lequel ne convient avec ce dernier que pour sa religion, s'il n'est aultant calviniste que puritain, ou tel qu'il peult estre encoires pis, ennemi des estrangiers, et intéressable, et à qui l'on tient que ledict Grand-Trésorier garde une pensée, car il commence à impiéter fort sur son erédit, qui est jeusne, et l'aultre travaillé de goustes et aultres indispositions, comme est le Chancelier Bacon, qui a espousé sa belle-sœur, lequel retient encoires son estat, quoy que les Contes ayent fait.

J'entens aussy que, parmy ces négociations dont cy-devant est faicte mention, le party des catholiques a reprins grand cœur, et que le contraire ha perdu beaucoup, mesmes entendu le rebuffe que la Royne fit à Walssinghen, parlant de ma négociation. Je désire fort que Coban ne soit point employé en nos affaires, comme soubs main je le pourchasse, pour estre trop déshontément hérétique et partial. Parmy toutes ces choses, il me samble que le party qu'il nous convient, a prins bon pied, et avec apparence qu'il le retiendrat, si de nostre costel on en sçait faire son proffit, jusques-là que Wilson, que tous vous autres, Messesseurs, congnoissez, hier en la chambre de présence m'entretenant, me tint ung langaige fort différent de celluy qu'on hat ouy de luy en Flandres, et entre autres choses disant que ce seroit ung grand bien que les différents de la religion s'accommodassent en une forme, qui causent si grands inconveniens en la chrestienté : adjoustant que la Royne d'Angleterre avoit esté forcée, pour son particulier, d'embrasser celle qu'elle avoit tenu jusques astheure, autrement qu'il eust fallu qu'elle eust retenu son royaume du Pape. Et comme je faisois l'ignorant, pour le faire dire davantage, il m'alléqua manifestement sa naissance, qui l'eust rendu incapable du royaume autrement; mais comme je luy dis qu'il fût esté raisonnable de chercher le royaume de Dieu premier, et qu'estant astheure confirmée par ceste longue possession, ce point-là seroit aysé à asseurer à son contentement, si elle estoit des nostres, que inviolablement il luy seroit conservé, s'appuyant du Roy, nostre maistre.

Or enfin, la Royne d'Angleterre s'entretient par la douceur et facilité dont elle use avec tout son peuple, et estudie principalement à cela et à se conserver. Je croy aussy que, si elle se véoit bien assurée de l'amitié du Roy, nostre maistre, que possible

nous pourrions voir quelque chose de plus grand, du moins la religion catholique non tant abattue comme elle est icy : m'ayant tenu des propos au blasme quasi de toutes les autres sectes, détestant surtout la calviniste, voire m'ha dict que une fois elle dit à ceulx-ey de Hollande et Zélande, qui la prioient de tenir compte de leur conscience, quel compte elle pouvoit faire de consciences jà dampnées. Elle se partira en bref (à ce que j'entens) de ceste ville, puisque le Parlement est conclu, où l'on dict que le dernier jour elle tint ung fort beau propos, et arrestat qu'elle désiroit de se marier, pourveu qu'elle rencontrât personne digne d'elle et d'ung tel royaume, et ainsi se desveloupa de nommer successeur. Les autres choses arrestées illecques se verront bientost imprimées, et me semble qu'on délivrera celluy qui à la première session commençat à parler plus hault que les autres : en quoy Haton, qui fut cause de sa prison, l'hat aydé avec ung propos (à ce que l'on dict) tant bien ordonné qu'il en hat acquis grand los et réputation; et je croy que ceste Royne sera bien ayse de trouver occasion pour le faire Milord et luy donner entrée au Conseil.

Toutes lesquelles choses vous autres, Messigneurs, pourrez considérer, pour vous en servir comme vous treuverez mieulx convenir, m'ayant semblé partie de mon devoir de les vous représenter en ceste sorte dois maintenant, sans attendre à mon retour, pour toutes occasions qui se pourroient présenter pendant.

Messeigneurs, à tant, me recommandant très-humblement à vos bonnes grâces, je prie le Créateur qu'il vous doint, en toute prospérité, heureuse et longue vie.

De Londres, ce xvii<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles. — Publié par M. Gachard, *Corresp. de Philippe II*, t. III, p. 848.)

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 MMMCX.

*Philippe de Marnix à Walsingham.*

(17 MARS 1576.)

Il sollicite pour lui et ses collègues des lettres de congé afin de pouvoir retourner en Zélande.

Monsieur, Ceste servira pour vous prier derechef bien humblement et de tout mon cœur qu'il vous plaise tenir la main à ce que puissions avoir nostre dépesche de Sa Majesté, ne voyants occasion pour quoy l'on nous doive icy plus longtams retenir, veu

singulièrement que nostre retardement en ce tamps-icy ne peut servir à Sa Majesté de chose que ce soit et à nous peut apporter très-grand préjudice, et mesme nous oster les occasions et beaux moyens que nous pourrions avoir à faire très-humble service à Sa Majesté et de pourveoir aux désordres et inconveniens qui de jour à autre sont apparens de sourdre si l'on n'y remédie, comme nous sommes très-délibérés de faire en cas que, avant que les choses soyent empirées, nous ayons moyen d'en faire le rapport à ceux qui nous ont envoyés. Il y a encor d'autres respects non-seulement publiques, mais aussy particuliers, et nommément en mon endroit (ayant laissé ma femme en point de s'accoucher environ ce temps-icy), pour lesquels, ne pouvants icy servir que de nombre et d'encombre (comme l'on dit), je supplieray très-humblement Sa Majesté nous vouloir donner un gracieux congé et nous honorer de quelc'un de ses commandements.

Je pensoye à ce matin que Mons<sup>r</sup> Buys deut venir à la Cour, mais il est entrevenu chose qui l'a destourné, qui me fait vous prier ne vouloir pour tant estre moins diligent à solliciter ce que dessus, en quoy, outre ce que vous nous obligerez grandement, encor ferez certes une œuvre pieuse en regard de nostre povre patrie. Qui sera l'endroit où, après m'estre bien humblement recommandé à vos bonnes grâces, prieray Dieu vous donner, Monsieur, en santé, vie bonne et longue.

Escrit au logis du Maistre des Postes, ce xvij<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 680.)

MMMCXI.

*La reine d'Angleterre au prince d'Orange.*

(WESTMINSTER, 18 MARS 1576.)

Réponse aux lettres du prince d'Orange. — Marnix rendra compte verbalement de la mission qu'il a remplie.

Puissant et excellent Princee, très-chier et très-aimé Cousin, Nous avons receu les lettres que nous avez escriites par le S<sup>r</sup> de St-Aldegonde et Messieurs les députés des Estats de par-delà, et semblablement ouy bien au long et bénignement, comme nous en avez requise, les choses desquelles de votre part et de celle desdits Estats nous ont informés : dont, selon leur importance, après icelles estre par le menu et meurement débatues et considérées, il nous a semblé bon vous faire la response telle que oiez d'eux, et pour tant, puisque ne pouvons doubter, sachant leur suffisance, qu'ils en vous pourront

et voudront faire du tout ample et certain rapport, n'avions pensé estre besoing vous en tenir icy autre propos; et nous faisant fort que vous et lesdits Estats jugerez que y avons procédé selon la raison et comme en honneur il nous est convenable de faire, et faisant fin de cestes, prions Dieu qu'il vous ait, très-cher et très-aimé Cousin, en sa sainte garde.

Escrit à notre palais de Westminster, ce xviii<sup>e</sup> de mars 1575.

(*British Museum, Titus, B. VI, n° 25.*)

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MMMCXII.

*M. de Champagney au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 19 MARS 1576.)

Il a annoncé à la reine la mort de Requesens. — Entretien avec Élisabeth. — On a répandu le bruit à Londres que le roi d'Espagne avait cessé de vivre. — Le crédit de Champagney diminue; son vif désir de retourner aux Pays-Bas. — Affaires d'Anvers.

Messeigneurs, Je receus hier vos lettres du ix<sup>e</sup> de ce mois, contenant la triste nouvelle du décès de feu Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, à qui Dieu face paix, que nous sçavons icy doit pièce, comme par autres miennes vous aurez veu. Suyvant les vostres, j'en advertis aujourd'huy ceste Royne de vostre part, et luy déclairas le surplus que illecques vous m'enchargez de luy dire. A quoy elle me respondit qu'enfin doncques il estoit mort, sans plus, et qu'elle estoit bien aise que vous aviez le gouvernement entre mains, espérant que vous auriez treuvé la charge qu'il avoit du Roy pour entendre à la pacification des Pays-Bas, et que, aiant succédé en sa place, vous pourriez aussi adviser sur ce bon œuvre, car elle ne vouloit estimer que le Roy, nostre maistre, l'eust forcomptée en la response que Coban luy avoit apporté d'Espagne; et, quant à la lettre du Roy que feu Son Excellence m'envoiait par ses dernières, que je luy présentas aussi, pour non dilayer trop et que après il me fût imputé, elle me dict que Son Excellence m'avoit fait tord, puisque j'avois charge de correspondre sur ce que Coban avoit négocié en Espagne, qu'il ne m'avoit adverty de ce point que emportoit tout le reste de ce que j'avois heu à traicter avec elle, et puisqu'ainsi estoit, et qu'il avoit voulu dissimuler sur ce fait et monstrier de n'avoir nulle response du Roy, que jà mon dépesche estoit dressé, lequel elle me feroit délivrer, combien que le stille en fût avant la certaine nouvelle du décès de Monseigneur le Grand-Comman-



deur, lequel devoit avoir adverty le Roy de la venue icy de Sainte-Aldegonde et de ses collègues, mais qu'il en heust peu aussi mander la cause, sçachant ce que Corbet luy avoit déclaré de sa part d'elle, et qu'elle les avoit retenu jusques ores, pensant de donner quelque bonne yssue à ceste besongne, et pour empescher qu'ils ne se donnassent à autre. Astheure ils disoient de se vouloir partir et qu'ils ne pouvoient plus attendre un nouvel envoy en Espagne, comme elle avoit délibéré, si vous autres, Messeigneurs, n'aviez auctorité de suspendre les armes; car, ayant attendu six mois sans fruct, ils véoient qu'on les amusoit, entretant que tous les jours on les alloit serrant de plus près, et que, si la Royne ne les vouloit recevoir, jà que d'appointement ils ne véoient nulle espérance du costel du Roy, qu'ils seroient contrainets de s'appuyer d'ailleurs, et que à cest effect il y avoit desjà un gentilhomme françois en Hollande, là où on les rappeloit. Je luy dis que, si Son Excellence n'avoit heu ce dépesche, comme il sembloit, que je pensois qu'il n'y auroit que attendre en ceey de vous autres, Messeigneurs, et que les rebelles monstroient bien le peu de respect qu'ils portoient à Sa Majesté, traitant si absolument avec elle; que les François avoient trop d'affaires à présent, pour en embrasser davantage. A quoy elle me respondit que le respect que ceulx d'Hollande et Zélande luy avoient porté, estoit si grand que avec une requeste très-humble ils luy avoient supplié ou de les racointer avec le Roy ou de les prendre à soy, et que les François s'accordoient sans faulte, lesquels elle ne vouloit en Hollande et Zélande. Je luy dis que j'entendois de Coban que le Roy, nostre maistre, estoit content de les recevoir pour le respect de la Royne, pourveu qu'ils se soubmissent à sa miséricorde, là où il estoit délibéré de passer autrement à leur chastoy, sans plus, et qu'il estoit aysé d'empescher les François, quant bien ils heussent loisir (ce que pour plusieurs raisons je luy monstras estre absurde), mesmes si elle vouloit se joindre avec le Roy, nostre maistre, ce que aussi elle debvroit faire dois maintenant contre ses rebelles, que seroit le vray remède (suyvant ce que luy avoit esté requis) et prévention de tout, outre ce qu'il estoit aysé à veoir que, s'ils avoient quelque succès, ils feroient aussi peu de compte d'elle que de nul autre, et seroient autant dommaigables à ses subjects. Et pour ce qu'elle me diet (comme autres fois) que des injures qu'ils faisoient à ses subjects, le Roy pouvoit entendre qu'elle ne les favorisoit pas, je luy dis que au contraire on avoit oppinion qu'ils s'estoient soustenus principalement du port et faveur qu'ils avoient de ce royaume, et que mesmes, ces deux ou trois jours derniers, il estoit party de bonnes troupes en leur faveur, avec plusieurs munitions et pièces. De quoy comme elle fit l'esbahye, disant qu'elle vouldroit bien descouvrir chose semblable, je luy dis qu'il estoit aysé, mesmes en un royaume d'où on ne pouvoit sortir comme on vouloit, ny aussi que par certains endroits, et que, si ses ministres le luy caichoient, ils luy faisoient grand tord, et, s'ils l'ignoroient (ce qui n'est possible), ils luy faisoient très-mauvais service. A

cela elle me dict qu'il y avoit de grands édicts sur ce faicts en ce pays. Je inféras que tant plus punissables estoient ceulx qui les laissoient transgresser, et que j'entens que d'icy mesmes, de la Tour on avoit saqué munitions pour nos rebelles : ce qu'elle disoit estre impossible, revenant tousjours à ce qu'elle vouldroit bien qu'on luy descouvrit telle chose et qu'on l'empeschât. Je luy respondis que ni l'ung, ny l'autre touchoit à moy, sinon à ses officiers, et que, quant bien je voulusse laisser de faire semblables rapports où j'estois tenu, qu'elle s'asseurât que le Roy, nostre maistre, en seroit adverty à la vérité par une infinité de personnes, comme s'il le véoit : d'où, fût du secu ou de l'ignorance d'elle, le Roy ne pourroit sinon s'affermir en la suspicion de sa volonté, et que sans faulte elle devoit faire à faire ung grand devoir en ceuy, tant pour observer les traictés et sa parolle que pour éviter le ressentiment que le Roy, à la parfin, à si juste occasion, en devrat avoir. Et passasmes sur ceuy plusieurs propos encoires plus clairs, l'ayant treuvé beaucoup tiède au pris des jours passés. Somme, elle conclud que demain son Conseil me donneroit response sur tout ce que j'avois heu charge de négocier, et m'hat-on dict que desjà elle ha faict apprester les batteaux pour me ramener. Au sortir de sa chambre, je fus longtemps avec le Conte de Susceux, à qui je rapportas ce que je avois treuvé en sa maistresse, et que comme affectionné à son service, aussi qu'il avoit tousjours monstré désirer l'entretien de l'amitié du Roy, nostre maistre, qu'il pensât bien les inconveniens ausquels ce royaume se pourroit précipiter par ces façons de faire, et sa maistresse aussi, et discourusmes fort longtemps divers poinets où luy concluoit que la Royne désiroit l'appoinctement des choses des Pays-Bas à l'advantaige du Roy. Je luy dis qu'il faudroit telles preuves et monstres de ceste volonté que le Roy s'y peult confier. Il en donnoit grand espoir, si vous autres, Messigneurs, en aviez l'auctorité, et imputoit tout le ressentiment de sa maistresse à ceste longueur qu'on avoit usé avec elle, voire quasi mépris, et qu'en fin elle le ressentoit aussi pour l'intérêt mesmes qu'elle y craingnoit. M'enquerrant plus avant par autres voyes pour entendre ceste froidure que j'avois treuvé, j'entens que ceste Court est toute plaine dois deux ou trois jours ençà que le Roy, nostre maistre, devoit estre mort (que Dieu ne vueille), et Champernon, Vice-admiral du West, hat apporté ceste nouvelle qui est crue de beaucoup de personnes principales, mesmes le Conte d'Arondel s'en est faict enquerre de quelques personnes qui traictent avec moy. Autres dient qu'entre les Estats par-delà, il y ha de grands différens sur le gouvernement et conduite, et choses semblables, lesquelles font entendre que ceulx-cy sont aux escoutes, sur quoy ils me vont prolongant. Veu ceuy, j'ay faict faire ce soir ung grand office avec Maistre Haton, lequel hier desjà à mon instance se plaignit des gens que Sestre envoie, avec qui il est mal, et procurera de luy faire une trousse s'il peult et à ceulx qui à son instigation vont au service de nos ennemis. Mais tous sont en ceuy que, s'il n'y ha quelque apparence d'appoincter les troubles des Pays-Bas, que sans faulte il

fait à craindre qu'il n'y ait icy du changement. Je dis que pour cela il faut renvoyer en Espagne, mais que ce soit sur quelque fondement d'estoffe, et cecy dis-je signamment pour entretenir le temps. La Royne se revint ung peu sur la fin, et me sembla que je laissas le Conte de Susseex en assez bon train, mais en fin il y ha peu d'arrest en ces gens; et tant qu'ils treuvent moien d'achever les choses de par-delà à la seurté qu'ils prétendent et qu'ils dient hault et clair, je voy que ils ne lairront d'ayder nos ennemis soubz main, de peur qu'ils ne succombent. Je veulx bien aussi advertir qu'il s'est espars icy ung bruiet fort constant que, après le décès de feu Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, l'on debvroit avoir treuvé une depesche du Roy, par lequel il luy commandoit nommément d'appoincter les différens des Pays-Bas, ce que Son Excellence n'auroit voulu faire, et j'ay bien veu que le Conte de Susseex en estoit adverty; car il me diet qu'il ne pouvoit estre qu'on n'heust treuvé aux papiers dudiet Grand-Commandeur quelque telle ordonnance, et que ores que quelques serviteurs ou amys de Son Excellence, qu'il me nommat, l'heust voulu caicher, il ne pensoit pas que vous laississiez distraire chose aucune sans en faire bien curieuse recherche pour démesler ce que touchoit le Roy d'avec le particulier, afin que vous entendez jusques où ils espeluchent les choses, et m'allégat, sur quelques responcees que je luy fis, qu'en tout gouvernement bien ordonné le conseil principal en usoit ainsi au deffault du chief, et qu'ils en faisoient en ceste sorte en Irlande et autres lieux d'Angleterre. A quoy je ne luy sceus respondre autre chose fors que leurs façons de faire et les nostres estoient bien différentes. Je sçay bien qu'il y ha lieu quelque lettre fort particulière que ha trotté par la Court, où quelcung que je ne puis sçavoir, donnoit compte, dois l'heure du décès de Son Excellence, de tous moments et de tout ce qu'estoit passé, tant de la part des Estats-généraux de vostre Conseil jusques à l'heure que le courier partit. Bref ils ont délibéré de me depescher, quoy qu'il en soit et de vray je commenceray doresnavant, à ce que je voys, leur estre à mespris; car jà, à ces deux dernières fois que j'ay esté en Court, je n'ay heu ny l'accompagnement, ny les caresses ordinaires, tellement que ma demeure icy seroit désormais infructueuse. Aussi estant séparé ce Parlement, le plus grand coup est rompu, et ceste Royne se part en bref de ceste ville, ny je n'aurois fondement pour prétexer ma demeure, quant ils m'auront respondu, et ne seroit pas grand faict que, à tarder davantaige, le retour aux Pays-Bas ne me fût pas seur, aiant courru assez d'hazart jusques icy sans me avanturer plus oultre à si peu de fondement. Je croy de mesmes que j'auray moien de faire plus par-delà, si on s'y veult servir de moy, n'estant venu icy que par emprunt de territoire, d'où Guaras peult continuer d'advertir comm' il ha fait tousjours, et de vray je ne l'y sçauroy faire longue, pour le peu de santé que cest air icy me permect, qui petit à petit me rendroit du tout inutile, s'il ne me coustoit encoires plus chier, ny le traictement qu'on m'ha faict, ne me baste à beaucoup près, oultre la despense qu'il m'ha faillu faire et fauldra encoires à ce que je voys pour voiaiger,

signament doigeant prendre des batteaux de la Royne, en quoy je suyvray l'ordre de ceulx qui icy sont practiqués. J'espère que vous aurez receu mes autres lettres et que, outre ce que j'escrivois en celle du xxiv<sup>e</sup> du passé, dont les vostres ne font mention, combien qu'elles accusent celles du xxv<sup>e</sup> et xxviii<sup>e</sup>, vous treuverez que possible mon retour à la charge d'Anvers (qu'est celle que je tiens du Roy) ne sera hors de propos. Aussi je n'ay nulle ordonnance, ny lettre du Roy pour estre icy, combien que j'en ay heu soubs mon nom pour ceste Royne, mais ce nom en la première ha esté adjousté aux Pays-Bas, et ceulx d'icy ont encoires oppinion que toutes ces lettres-là se sont faictes sus de blancs signets du Roy, que feue Son Excellence avoit avec soy. Et de vray (comme j'ay escrit une fois), quant le Roy me donneroit l'usufruit de l'ung de ses royaumes, je ne m'arresteroiy point icy, outre ma santé, pour y avoir si peu de moien de vivre en chrestien. J'en ay volontiers faict ce que j'ay peu, comme l'on ha veu, et j'espère que vous autres, Messeigneurs, donnerez tel ordre en Anvers pendant mon absence (comme je vous en supplie) qu'il y sera meilleur qu'il n'hat esté du passé, et, si je retourne, je vous y serviray, s'il vous plaiet, tant que le Roy ordonne autre chose. La bourse y est destruite; toute l'ordinaire forme de justice enbroullée par attentats consentus à autres, les édicts peu observés, d'autres enfreints, qui estoient utilissimes pour les passions et conivences d'aucuns particuliers, la bourgeoisie extrêmement foulée, et plusieurs bonnes choses commencées sont en hazard de demeurer imparfaites, et autres de non estre introduietes, comme il seroit de besoing. Sur la garnison, j'ay escrit ce qu'il m'en semble, comme je pensois estre obligé, et, quant quelques gens du Conte Hanibal y demeurassent (mais qu'ils ne fussent en nombre excessif, comme ils ont esté jusques astheure), il vaudroit sans comparaison miculx que ce fût soubs son lieutenant coronel que soubs luy, qui est ung fort honneste homme, bon soldat et raisonnable, et qui sçaura fort bien garder la ville, sans armes faulces qui ne servent que à espovanter et esgarer le peuple, et la mesme demeure du Conte est merveilleusement coustangeuse à la ville où il fait si chier, comme tout le monde sçait, n'estant raisonnable qu'elle soit chargée, ny foulée que de ce qu'il convient pour sa garde, en quoy l'on hat usé jusques icy bien peu de considération, estant ville marchande et de traffiq. Aussi une grande part des maisons sont abbandonnées avec dommaige incroiable des propriétaires et du commerce. En quoy, si vous autres, Messeigneurs, ne pourvoiez, ce sera jecter le manche après la congnee. Je prie à Dieu qu'il vueille inspirer l'ordre requis et per-mectre bon succès partout.

De Londres, ce xix<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles. — Publié en partie par M. Gachard, *Correspondance de Philippe II*, t. III, p. 853.)

MMCXIII.

*John Hastings à lord Burleigh.*

(19 MARS 1576.)

Plaintes des marchands. — Perplexité de Paul Buys. — Si les États de Hollande traitent avec la France, on regrettera d'avoir rejeté leurs propositions. — Il serait utile que lord Burleigh vit Paul Buys avant son départ.

Right honorable, I was yesterdaie t'attende Your Honor, but I coulde nether see you, nor find meane to give Your Honor t'understande therof, and it was partlie touching these complaints maide dailie of the merchantes, by which Your Honors are dailie troubled, ande thoesse of Hollande more hindred than there is in everie pointe suche cause for, so that our merchantes wille nether colour or assure strangers' goodes, but deale with ther owne doinges. I see not but they maie trade savelie withowte anie disturbance, with gretter doinges and more shippinge than ever hertofore they had anie occasion of; for, as longe as these things thus contineweth, firste ther shippinge is liklie to be thers, as wherin everie man wolbe most desirouse to laid and freight in, and after so the trade come hooly to ther handes. For thiese questions rise not, bicause those of Zeeland have hadd wille to deale with the English nation, but that they seeke to cut of ther ennimies trade, wherin I cannot blame them. Another matter I hadd to move Your Honor in, ande it was touchinge Monsieur Buze, who, howe affectionate he haith bin in thiese causes to Her Majestie and this State Your Honor knowithe, and, nowe heringe of a peace in Fraunce and the Frenche repaire thither, I finde him in perplexid state, as the rest of his I knowe in Holland be the like, wherfore, sins it growith not but by affection, this wair chifflie to Her Majestie and zcale to bothe the countres, I thought goode the rather to commende his uncomfortable state to Your Honor's consideration; for, as me thineke he hadd reason to be so bent for Inglonde, so who considerithe th'olde and continuall frindshippe bettwene Fraunce and Scotlande, and the powers to be joined with the Lowe-Contres, shall beholde Inglonde but hardlie neibourid (I pray God I never see it) lesse to late wee lament the looste occasion so honorable, so stronge, so easie, so necessarie, so profitable, withowte anie probable question yet herd of to the contrarie. And thus, yet trustinge Your Honor wille sende for M<sup>r</sup> Buze once before his departure, who is able to shewe you more of this Frenche preparation than yet paraventure you have herde of, in feare, in zeale and discharge of my conscience and dewtie, I am bolde to write thus rudelie, tho in haste, which I trust it maie please Your Honor so to accept and pardon.

From Lambeth, this 19 of march 1575.

And havinge (as Her Majestie' servaunte) receivid suche intertainment at the Prince his handes, and thers by often convitations and other curteses, bothe by accompaninge and otherwise, I can not but singnifie all thiese tokens of gret affection and good wille borne of them towarde Her Majestie, also unto Your Honor, and so commende it unto Your Honor's consideration with the cawse of ther comminge and ther charge therin with other circumstances.

(Record office, Cal., n° 681.)

MMMCXIV.

*M. de Champagney au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 20 MARS 1576.)

Arrivée à Londres d'un envoyé du duc d'Alençon. — Les conseillers de la reine s'étonnent de ne pas recevoir d'offres de la part de Champagney. — Le roi d'Écosse prend le titre de protecteur de la Hollande. — La reine se montre mécontente des secours secrets donnés aux rebelles. — Armements en France.

Messeigneurs, Oultre ce que hier j'escrivis, j'adjousteray encoires qu'il est venu icy ung gentilhomme françois, nommé Monsieur de la Tour, envoyé par Monsieur de Alençon, lequel avoit esté, le jour avant mon audience dernière, vers ceste Royne, que fut le mesme qu'il arrivat, afin que vous entendez le haste qu'il y heust. Par luy je tiens qu'elle fut advertie de celluy qui est allé en Hollande, de la part du mesme seigneur, qui s'est embarqué à Calais pour aller trouver le Prince d'Oranges. Quelque bon personaige m'hat aussi adverty que aucuns de ces ministres avoient pensé que je leur debvoy faire des grandes offres, pour retenir ceste Royne; et ung seigneur principal a demandé à ung mien amy s'il estoit vray que je leur heus faict offrir, me conseillant de ne le faire, car sous main, comme il me diet, ils ne lairront de assister nos ennemis, quoy qu'on leur donne, et si ne seront jamais part que la Royne rompe ouvertement, car il y aura trop de contrarians. Enfin je voy qu'il y ha de la picque et que ce Conseil s'est bandé contre Haton, ayans flairé qu'il s'est mis fort avant en nos affaires. Mesmes entre luy et le Conte de Leicestre y a quelque malentendu à présent, pour ung baron contre lequel Haton s'est déclaré, et possible pour la mesme cause des autres. Toutesfois je m'ay entretenu des deux, de sorte que l'ung et l'autre m'ont faict jusques icy beaucoup de faveur et assistance en ma négociation; mais il m'est advis que de ceste picque la Royne mesme s'est embaressée, car je n'en

ay apperceu à son dire, m'ayant demandé une fois si j'avois faict semblant au Conte de Licestre du moyen qu'elle m'avoit donné par Haton : à quoy je luy dis que non, comme il estoit vray, et que je n'avois garde de sortir de l'ordre de Sa Majesté. Dont elle fut bien ayse; mais cependant, ces quatre ou cinq jours passés, elle n'at admis ledict Haton en aulcune négociation. Et, de vray, c'est le plus faicheux et le plus incertain négociier, de ceste Court, que je pense soit au monde. Je les voys en grand bransle; car, de la part du Prince d'Oranges, il y hat aussi ambassadeurs et vers le Roy de France et vers Monsieur d'Alançon. D'autre part, sambedy dernier est venu ung advisement à ceste Royne (que l'on veult toutesfois tenir secret), lequel j'ay sceu de bonne part, que l'on ha payé les Escossois qui sont allé à nos ennemis, d'une monnoie d'or, armoïée des armes d'Escosse, et avec une inscription : *Jacobus, rex Scotiae, hæres Angliæ et Hiberniæ, protector Hollandiæ et Zelandiæ*. Et comme Morton, qui gouverne en Escosse, est tout françois, cecy, à ce que j'entens, meet une grande jalousie; et je voy ces gens si irrésolus qu'ils ne voudroient commencer, à mon advis, quelque chose mal à propos, et si ne voudroient que l'occasion leur eschappât.

Hier, après que je me partis de la Royne, elle appellat la Contesse de Varwyck, et luy demandat où estoit son mary; et, comme elle luy respondit qu'il estoit malade, elle le commençat à maudire, disant qu'enfin il ne seroit jamais cause que de la mettre en mille fâcheries, et j'entens que c'est luy qui auroit vendu de l'artillerie saquée de la Tour; et fit appeler sur le champ Walsinghen, auquel elle commandat de luy donner incontinent à elle-mesme le contrerolle des traites qu'on avoit faict de la Tour, et qu'il vit bien qu'il n'y heust point de forcompte. Elle luy demandat aussi ung dépesche qu'on avoit faict pour les gens du Prince d'Oranges, qu'elle dessirat, et traictat de parolles Walsinghen fort asprement; et fut si grigne, tout ce soir-là, qu'elle battit une ou deux de ses femmes. Et cejourd'huy demeurat au liet bien tard, sans sortir au sermon, disant qu'elle n'avoit sceu dormir de toute la nuyct, tellement que de ces choses l'on peult veoir qu'elle n'a point si mauvaïse intention comme ses officiers.

Il court icy un bruiet que les François font amas du costel de Calais et en Picardie, pour nous invahir. L'on diet aussi qu'il s'embarque deux mille hommes à Havre-de-Grâce, pensent aucuns pour Hollande, les autres pour aller en Bretagne, où il semble que Monsieur d'Alançon faict desseing, voires qu'il l'hat demandé à son frère. Ils m'ont contremandé cejourd'huy et m'ont remis à demain que le Conseil me dépescherat.

De Londres, ce xx<sup>e</sup> de mars 1576.

(Publié par M. Gachard, *Correspondance de Philippe II*, t. III, p. 855.)

MMMCXV.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(20 MARS 1576.)

Nouveaux témoignages de dévouement de Paul Buys. — Il sollicite un prêt de trente mille livres pour les États de Hollande. — Moyens de faire échouer les négociations des Français.

Your good Lordship, by your last letter of the xv<sup>th</sup> of this present, dyd somwhatt att large vowchesave to discowrse unto me of your earnest and ynwarde affectyon to the publyck cawse that the Hollanders do treatt for here, wissheng theme bothe to understand and be perswaded assuredly of the same your good mynde towards theme and their cawse, and that you dyd desire unto theme all their relygyows and honest zeles, and to be permytted to serve God truly and to enjoye the rightes that belong to theme, commending the dexterity and right judgement of Paul Buis in his proceedinges, namely in his intentyon and cowrse that he professed to joyne rather with this crowne than with Frawnce or ani other stranger, concludyng that now, the Parlyament being ended, you ment, as allredy you had begon, to sollycite their depeche, and that bothe as favorably and with that reward that you cowl gett for theme, wherof conferryng partyclerly in Your Lordship's name with the sayd Pawll Buis, as allredy I have wrytten to Your Lordship therof, he remayned so satisfied in Your Lordship's favorable inclynation towards the cawse and of your good oppynion privately of him, as he sayd that he wolld deppend of Your Lordship whiles he lived, and that rather he wolld suffer to be torne with wilde horses than to joyne with the Frenche, nor with ani other stranger that might prejudice this crowne, in which oppynion he constantly remaynes, and will so contynew duryng lyfe, giveng Your Lordship humble thanekes for your offer so honorably to procure his dispatche. Which conference he is com, this after noone, to repete unto me, for that, God willeng, he menes, on wensdaye or thursdaye att the furthest, to departe, desiring Your Lordship, even as he assures him self in your honorable woord and promis, than which he thinckes nothing more certayn that may be procedyng from men, that you wolld procure him an answer or depeche in wryteng from Her Majesty, grownded uppon the negocyatyon that M<sup>r</sup> Hastings had with theme, and that, yf it might be for Her Majestye's owne credite and for her suretye, many wayes withall, that she wolld secrettly lend theme 50<sup>m</sup> li, nott estymeng the natyon of Holland and Zelland so bassely (yf it were butt in respect of their neighborhood, who have many correspondeneyes with this State and crowne nott lyghtly to be weyed) as to



denye theme for so small a some, for the which Her Majesty shall have so good assurance from the States of the contrey, as yf the monney were styll in her coffers, that she shall have suffieyent hostayges to remayn for yt here, yf she willeth, which he preseth the rather for that it sholld nott seme to those of Holland and Zeland to be so contempned of Her Majesty that, after so long a treaty here and so grett assurances given by Her Majesty to theme of favor and ayde, that they sholld eary no frute of their negocyatyon at all, butt rather to appere that they, theyr commissyoners, had betrayed the contreye's cawse, wherunto they be apt inough in those partes to speke and beleve the worst; and principally he leves to your honorable and wise consyderatyon whatt an yll taste ytt wolld give, nott only to theme of Holland and Zeland, butt to all those of the Lowe-Countreyes, ever to dele with England agayne, or to trust to ani treaty that might be made here, that sees the commissyoners of so weighty a cawse so dallyed with and protracted, being assured of the contrary in the begynneng, even in the invyolable woord of a prince, wherof he feres the inconvenyence more than the losse of his own lycfe, yf they retorne thus fruteles home. Butt, trustyng uppon Your Lordship's helpp now, or of your answer, he stayth his departure uppon that only. Desiring you to be assured of on thing (which as a christen man be speketh, bothe as truthe ledes hym, and for the good will that he beres to this State) that the Frenche will attempt presently somwhatt in Zeland, *vel ipsis invitis*, which wilbe to the Quenes Majestie's grett danger and charge, and wilbe fyrst executed beffore she ones beleve it. Yett, yf her fryndes and well willers myndes be nott to muche withdrawn by unkyndnes from her, there may be good remedy used to encownter ani of their attemptes yn season, butt he prayes to God for ij thinges: the on that this State were served with better intelligence, and then with a mynde to beleve theme and to execute that which is necessary, being of an oppynion for his parte (which he hath good argumentes to confirme hym in) that the King and the Hugenottes in Frawnce were agreed synce the tyme that La Mote and Portall were here last, whatt soever semblance was made to the contrary, and that Her Majesty is entertayned in the mene tyme to be prejudiced and abused, as allwayes they have had the starte of her that waye. He sayth that Mr Wallsingham tolld theme that the Quene's Majesty wolld send a gentillman into Flanders to cawse a cessyng of armes, or elles Her Majesty wolld releve theme with monney in Holland. For the fyrst parte, theyr enmyes have offred so muche allredy theme sellves, and therefore that Her Majesty shall nott nede to be att this charge, nor travayll, which is nether the cowrse that they most take, nor theyr surety to follow ani suche devises, and in effect is butt a trayne and mockery to their Estate, yf they sholld applye so nere unto theme. And to the second, for relceff to be used affterwardes, that their affayres reqwire present ayd, and to be grownded uppon certayntyes, and nott uppon seasons and yrresolutyons, wherwith he humbly commended hym sellff to Your

good Lordship, being verey sory even with his harte for your syeknes, praying God for your amendment, and so humbly I take mi leve.

From Redcrosse Strete, the xx<sup>th</sup> of marche, in haste, 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 682.)

### MMMCXVI.

#### *Note du Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(LONDRES, 22 MARS 1576.)

La reine chargera un envoyé de s'informer près du Conseil d'État s'il est investi du même pouvoir que Requesens pour traiter avec elle de sa médiation. — Si son intervention était repoussée, elle aurait à consulter l'intérêt de son peuple, sans pouvoir dès ce moment s'expliquer à cet égard.

*Memoriale appositum responsioni Dominæ Reginæ ad ea quæ proponebantur per Dominum Fredericum Perrenot, Dominum de Champagney, etc., etc.*

Cum ex litteris Regis Catholici a Domino Frederico Perrenot, Domino de Champagney, Majestati Suæ traditis constet potestatem demandatam fuisse dicto Domino de Champagney tractandi de iis rebus quæ a Domino Cobhamo Regi Catholico proponebantur, quarum caput præcipuum in eo vertebatur ut Regi Catholico persuaderet aliquam hujuscemodi cum ejus subditis inire rationem componendorum civilium tumultuum, quæ utrique parti salutaris esse posset, id vero se habere in mandatis dictus Dominus de Champagney pernegarit, nihilominus tamen, cum sibi persuadebat Sua Majestas delatam fuisse Commendatori defuncto potestatem secum de his capitibus negociandi, eoque nomine dictum Dominum de Champagney ante Commendatoris mortem rogabat ut ad Commendatorem de illo negotio scriberet, qui se id responsi retulisse testatus est apud Suam Majestatem, dictum Commendatorem rescripsisse se nullam a Rege Catholico auctoritatem habuisse in eam partem. Ipsa vero, quam sancte idipsum pollicitus est Rex Catholicus secum in animo cogitans (nam in suo ad Dominum Cobhamum responso, disertis verbis significavit velle se dictum Commendatorem certiore facere quid consilii in eam partem accepisset a Sua Majestate, et quam illi gratum ac acceptum fuit) nulloque modo sibi satisfacere valens, nisi aliquem ad Commendatorem mitteret, qui an a Rege præstitum esset quod promiserat, referret, interrupto licet istorum consiliorum, institutorumque suorum cursu Commendatoris morte,

eundem tamen quem semper hactenus animum gerens erga Regem et Belgios ut, compositis rebus, fauste feliciterque, simul in pace vivant, ad summum Catholici Regis honoris et publici commodi, universique Belgii incrementum, in animo habet Sua Majestas, perinde ac si mors Commendatoris non intervenisset, nobilem aliquem expresse ad novos Gubernatores mittere ut intelligat num prædicta autoritas iis delata fuerit, quam fuisse antea penes Commendatorem haudquaquam temere sibi persuadet, tum quoque ut omnia piæ principis officia præstet, quæ ad pacem constituendam spectare queant. Quod honorificum Majestatis Suæ institutum rogat Sua Majestas dictum Dominum de Champagney ut omni quo potest studio et voluntate promoveat, et id impensius rogat, ne, si paci publicæ non provideatur, Majestas Sua cogatur institutum suum mutare, ut rerum exitus se vel invitam eo trahent.

Quod vero dictus Dominus de Champagney, post responsum sibi traditum in scriptis, plenius sibi satisfieri postulavit, in ea responsionis clausula quæ sic habet : Vel quod rerum suarum desperatione coacti, ipsi se commissuri sint, etc. Ut providentius sibi suoque populo consulat, etc. sibi que significari quid per illa verba : Ut providentius, etc. Majestas Sua intelligebat : respondet Sua Majestas non posse se impresentiarum aliter quam generalibus verbis respondere, quoniam ex rerum eventu erit sibi agendum et quod erit maxime ex honore et incolumitate sua.

(Archives du Royaume, à Bruxelles, Papiers d'État, Registre n° 400, fol. 176.)

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### MMMCXVII.

#### *M. de Champagney au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 21 ET 23 MARS 1576.)

Les conseillers de la reine lui ont remis la réponse qui met fin à sa mission. -- Dernière entrevue avec la reine qui insiste pour que sa médiation soit acceptée; elle promet de ne faire, si elle traite, aucune réserve pour la religion.

Messeigneurs, Le Seigneur Corbet m'est venu querre cest après-disner pour le Conseil. On l'hat tenu en la chambre de Milord Trésorier, à cause de son indisposition, là où ils se treuvèrent luy, les deux Contes de Licestre et Susecx et le Secrétaire Walsinghen; et m'ont donné la finale response de la Royne, en laquelle vous verrez ce que s'est passé, car ils me l'ont donné par escript, et quant et quant m'on dict qu'on

avoit appresté ung batteau de guerre de la Royne à Margat, pour me passer. Nous heusmes plusieurs disputes, où je leur remonstras le peu que ceste leur response seruiroit, pour la confidencee que, de la part de la Royne, j'eus voulu pouvoir asseurer au Roy, nostre maistre, suyvant ce qu'elle m'en avoit diet tant de fois. Sur quoy ils me respondirent que, attendu l'estat présent, auquel la Royne ne peut faire autrement, le Roy n'ha aucune occasion de s'en pouvoir deffier, ains recongnoistre la bonne affection qu'elle luy porte, ayant si longtemps reffusé les offres de nos ennemis et cherché tousjours de les faire revenir sous la obéissance du Roy, conviant pour cela sa douleur et élémence, et que sans ces offices j'à pièça l'Hollande et Zélande auroit changé de prince : ce qu'elle veult empescher par toutes voyes et procurer que les Pays-Bas retournent à la tranquillité du passé.

Ils ont résolu qu'ils enverroient vers vous autres, Messieurs, et je pense que ce sera Coban. Je leur ay aussi diet, comme à la Royne, ce que j'avois entendu que nos ennemis tiroient de ce royaume. Ils m'ont diet qu'ils avoient ouy le mesme de Sa Majesté, faisant fort les esbahis, promectans de faire grande diligence pour le découvrir et empescher; mais aussi ils vouloient bien advertir qu'ils sçavoient que, à Noël passé, Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur avoit faict payer les pensions aux rebelles de leur maistresse, qu'on avoit faict sortir de Flandres, et que cela vrayement estoit bien ung autre fondement pour faire entrer en deffiance leur maistresse : ce qu'elle ne vouloit, pour ne se pouvoir persuader que ce fût l'intention du Roy, mais bien de ceulx qui cherchent de troubler leur amitié, laquelle la Royne desiroit de conserver, et les traités et entrecours qui estoient entre la maison de Bourgoigne, les Roys d'Angleterre et leurs vassaulx, outre divers traités particuliers qui estoient aussi entre les villes des ungs et des autres pour le commerce : ce que ne se pouvoit entretenir où estrangiers non comprins ausdiets traités faicheroient de corrompre toute ancienne forme et façon de conduite, et que, aiant la Royne résolu d'envoyer vers vous autres, Messieurs, ils ne pouvoient faire autre chose, et que cestuy-cy estoit le dépesche final que leur maistresse avoit ordonné pour moy, d'autant qu'on ne pouvoit plus dilayer à prendre une résolution sur ce qu'elle avoit requis au Roy, et que, sans cela, il ne se pouvoit faire chose aucune davantaige. Sur ces entrefaites, nous dismes, d'ung costel et d'autre, chascun ce que nous pensions faire à nostre propos. Au surplus, ils me protestarent que leur maistresse ne avoit autre désir que de veoir les choses des Pays-Bas accommodées, avec l'auctorité du Roy et la seurté et commodité de ce royaume, par les mesmes termes que souvent j'ay escript.

De là on me menat vers la Royne, qui m'attendoit pour me licencier. Je luy tins assez long propos, luy représentant beaucoup d'inconvéniens qui estoient pour ressortir à son préjudice et de son royaume, si elle donnoit occasion à nostre Roy de tomber en suspicion de son amitié, comme je craingnois qu'il feroit, véant ceste

response qu'elle m'avoit fait donner si irrésolue. Sur quoy elle me retournat à dire que je pouvois assurer le Roy que son intention n'estoit autre que de user de toute révérence et affection en son endroit, que sont les mesmes termes qu'elle me diet, et que jamais elle ne procureroit autre chose que de faire revenir ses subjects à son obéissance, avec la conservation de son auctorité, laquelle ne luy seroit en nul temps en moindre considération que ce qu'elle désireroit pour la sienne propre, mais qu'elle ne pouvoit délaissier aussi d'avoir égard à ce que concernoit le bien et seurté de son royaume; que, si le Roy la vouloit admettre à composer les différens des Pays-Bas, comme elle s'estoit offerte et l'en avoit prié, elle en useroit comme dessus, et, quant à la religion, que jamais elle n'en mettroit chose aucune en avant. Et commençat à me tenir le mesme langage qu'elle ha fait tant de fois, disant le pis qu'elle ha peu de celle qu'ils suyvent astheure en Hollande et Zélande, et de ceulx-mesmes qui la soutiennent; que pour cest effect elle envoioit présentement vers vous autres, Messieurs, et qu'elle dépescheroit, déans ung jour ou deux, lettres au Roy en Espagne, à ceste mesme fin : qu'estoit tout ce que pour le présent elle pouvoit faire, puisque Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur l'avoit ainsi menné et trainé, sans que j'en aye secu tirer autre chose, quoy que je sceusse dire, et que je fis mon miculx pour luy persuader, ce que j'ay si souvent taiché, que le vray seroit qu'elle se joignit avec nostre Roy, pour empescher toutes ces doubtes de France, et d'ailleurs, qu'elle alléguoit, sans se mettre en termes d'où je craignois fort qu'elle se précipiteroit en quelque guerre, dont par après elle auroit peine de sortir, luy mettant au-devant (pour l'obligation que j'avois aux honneurs qu'elle m'avoit fait) plusieurs choses qu'elle devoit penser, tant pour son royaume, dignité, que pour sa propre personne. A cela elle me respondit qu'elle ne vouloit penser du Roy qu'il deust sans bonne et légitime cause violer leur amitié; qu'elle n'avoit autre intention que de la conserver et y servir, mais que de se joindre avec le Roy, afin que par après il mit aux Pays-Bas ceulx avec lesquels elle sçavoit que ny elle, ny son royaume ne pourroient voisiner, que ce seroit se faire la guerre à elle-mesmes; en toutes autres occasions, que le Roy s'assurât de la trouver prompte et de si bon cueur qu'il ne trouveroit jamais prince, ny princesse plus à sa dévotion qu'elle, mais qu'elle estoit obligée à tenir ce souey pour elle et pour ses vassaulx; et que vous autres, Messieurs, entendriez ce que plus amplement, sur ceey et sur toute autre chose concernant la conservation de l'ancienne amitié, elle vous feroit mettre en avant par celluy qu'elle enverroit : me priant que je me voulusse dépescher le plus que je pourrois de me trouver vers vous, pour tesmoigner ce que j'avois entendu d'elle, car elle entendoit bien qu'il n'y manqueroit des semeurs de zisanie à tous costels en ceste conjuncture, mais que du sien je pouvois respondre qu'elle ne changeroit de l'intention qu'elle ha déclaré si souvent et assez ouvertement; et me licenciât en ceste sorte.

De tout cecy j'ay bien voulu advertir avant mon arrivée, pour vous prévenir de bonne heure, faisant mon compte de partir demain encoires, si je puis avoir mon dépesche.

De Londres, ce *xxi<sup>e</sup>* de mars 1576.

Les Seigneurs du Conseil icy m'ont envoié hier, outre le dépesche dont avec cestes vat copie, deux lettres de la Roïne, l'une pour le Roy, nostre maistre, l'autre pour feu Monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur, qu'ils disent estoit escripte avant la nouvelle de sa mort, disans que, n'ayant à présent gouverneur aux Pays-Bas, ils font compte que vous autres, Messeigneurs, l'ouvrez, qui avez prins l'administration de sa charge par son deffault : ne de l'une, ne de l'autre je n'ay le double. Et à cest instant, qu'est le *xxiii<sup>e</sup>*, est venu l'ordinaire des Pays-Bas, où, ne treuvans autre advertence de vous autres, Messeigneurs, ny mesmes de la réception de diverses lettres miennes pour *feue Son Excellence*, qui seront arrivées en vos mains depuis sa mort, et d'autres que, après l'avoir secu, je vous ay escrit, je juge davantaige que je auray adresse à recevoir mon congé final de ceste Roïne, pour non l'altérer davantaige, et m'affautir icy et ma négociation de crédit, à faulte de correspondance. Le Conte de Licestre m'bat encoires fait dire cejourd'huy, par ung sien amy, outre plusieurs courtoisies et offres, que je puis asseurer, en cas qu'on veuille permectre à sa maistresse de procurer l'appointement des Pays-Bas, qu'il ne s'y traicterat aucunement de la religion, et qu'elle ne procurerat chose que ne soit avec l'auctorité du Roy, comme elle est tenue.

(Publié par M. Gachard, *Corresp. de Philippe II*, t. III, p. 857.)

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### MMMCXVIII.

#### *William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(23 MARS 1576.)

Les députés de la Hollande ont été consternés par le discours plein de menaces que la reine leur a adressé; mais la lettre de Burleigh les a un peu rassurés. — Paul Buys demande qu'il leur soit au moins permis d'exporter, en franchise de droits, les draps dont ils ont besoin pour habiller leurs soldats. — Les députés de la Hollande allèguent qu'ils sont venus à grands frais en Angleterre à la demande expresse de la reine; ils rappellent l'accueil qui a été fait chez eux à plusieurs envoyés d'Élisabeth.

Beholding in your letter of yesternight, Mi right honorable good Lordship, with grett sorow of mynde the answer which Your Lordship was most sory to write to these pore

Hollanders, I was the lother to impart that with theme to encrease greeff, yll newes comming to sone.

Butt to prevent me, they were here betymes this mornynge, to whom then I declared the effect of your sayd letter, and the zele that it was accompanied with, which certainly dyd mucche comfort and satisfye theme bothe (nottwithstanding the successe that answered nott to their good menyng towards this crowne) to se Your Lordship so nobly affected towards theme, and to dele so playnly and zelowsly with theme, whose commendatyon and memory they protested shold never perish with theme. Ytt served likewise verely well to qwallefye the poore men, who were in a marvaylows passion, for the answer that they had receved in writeng before they cam to me from Her Majesty, wherein, besyde that she had expressly denyed them ether her ayde or releeff, she had threttned them further (*a se resentire*) if they shold join with ani other, which they lest expected at Her Majestie's handes, they sayd, whom they had allwayes accompted graciows and no tirant, and therefore had addressed them selves to her above all other, and of whom they had deserved well (if ani thing owght to be well taken and thanckfully) in presentyng to her them selves and all that they had, unworthy then this uncorteis delyng and rejectyon, and verely hard, if they, being fre men, shold be forbydden to seke ayde to preserve their own lyves, unles they shold offend her that made non accompte of theme, which was to bring theme by despayre to fere no evill, that coud not hope for ani good. Ytt had suffised, they sayd, without this aggravatyon, that they had consumed here so mucche tyme, so mani occasions, and spent grett sommes that might have bin better employed, whyles they, being perswaded to com over by Her Majestie's own messenger, and attending the performans of her own promis, yett satisfyed in nothing, butt most depart without thanckes, and yet threttned allso if they do nott voluntarily yeld their own throtes to be cutt, att the arbitrement of others. Butt Your Lordship's letter dyd grettly appeise them, and I added that Her Majestie's answer by writeng was butt a maner of conniveneye, which was necessary for this season, and the actyons that Her Majesty had in hand to be so used, namely seing they so desired it, and had it uppon their desire openly in writeng, that it coud nott well be otherwise, which served them bothe to satisfye Champigny for the owttward shew verely well, and to helpe them the better in secrett, when the occasyon were offred to Her Majesty, which confirmed som oppinion in them.

Uppon this Pawll Buis, taking me a syde, tolld me that he had a small sute to make unto Her Majesty by Your Lordship, if you wolld nott thinck mucche to be the mene for it, which otherwise he wolld forbere, and that was for a good turne to be don to his contrey, who, nest unto monney, had necessity of no on thing more than of som english clothes and cariseyes for their sowdyers and peopell, of the which a merchawnt, their frynd here, to whom they ar indetted somewhat, wolld furnish them to the number

of 2000 clothes and kariseis secretly, and receive other commodities of theirs in exchange of theme. The said Pawll Buis, desiring in consideration of the place and use that the sayd clothes ar to serve for, and of him that intreates for theme, that he might have them custom free, according to the forme conteyned in this parchement annexed, which is redy for Her Majestie's signature, if she vowchesave so muche good towards theme to grawnt it. And the partyes, he sayth, that be mentyoned in the sayd parchement, be men that may receive the grawnt without suspicion that it touwcheth ether hym or his contrey, which favor bothe he and his contrey shall so deserve towards Your Lordship in partyeler, as shall well content you. Confessing to me that this jorney will cost them on way and another 5000<sup>m</sup> li, having intertayned M<sup>r</sup> Hastings in Holland (which he uttred nott, he sayd, to upbrayd ani matter therof) with a table for xviiij persons full furnished contynually, defrayeng all his other costes besyde, whyle he was in the contrey (which in dede in Holland is verely chargeable), presentyng hym with a cheque of vj<sup>o</sup> ducates, and appointeng ij men of warre to bring hym over, which they intertayned here a grett while. Likewise to Rogers and to all those that cam from Her Majesty, they had bin bowntifull and loving, marvayleng whence then these unkynde and hard delinges here towards theme shold be so provoked, and Her Majestie's hard grasse so muche proceured against theme, which I tolld hym surely proceeded of Champaignie's negociation, who was a connyng and a diligent fellow <sup>1</sup>, and was partly to be plesed for som owttward cawse, which was, as Your Lordship sayd, weker than the inward, and there I qwietted hym agayn. Then speking of newes of the King of Spaigne's dethe, he was nott sure of it, he sayd. Butt, for the peace in Frawnce, he persisted in his oppinion that it was throwly concluded, and that Her Majesty was abused by those that wolld perswade her otherwise, and M<sup>r</sup> Horsey shold be most abused of all, with woordes and fyctyons, wheruppon we ended, and so I humbly take mi leve.

From Redcrosse Strete, the 25 of marche 1575.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 684.*)

<sup>1</sup> Champaigny était chargé de demander l'arrestation de Marnix, et Élisabeth qui n'eût pas osé l'ordonner, eût peut-être consenti à quelque moyen de l'enlever et de le livrer au Grand-Commandeur. On a conservé une lettre d'Élisabeth remise à Requesens par un homme digne de confiance, et à cette lettre était joint le billet suivant : « J'ai à votre demande causé avec votre ami (Champaigny?) » Il ne peut pas vous envoyer l'oiseau avant qu'il soit pris. La poule a fait son nid avec soin et ne le » quitte pas. »



MMMCXIX.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(24 MARS 1576.)

Paul Buys réclame une réponse. — Siège de Zierickzee. — Nouvelles des Pays-Bas. —  
Importante révélation à faire.

Yf Your Lordships have consydered of the letter that I sent you yesterdaye, and of the request that Powell Buys made unto Your Lordship, I woldd be bolld to crave Your Lordship's answer, that which the sayd Buys doth allso attend, according to Your Lordship's convenyencye, being redy to depart yf he had prepared suche shipping as is mete for him, which he is in hand to provyde, and shall obtayne it verry shortly.

On wensday, att evenyng, there went outt of Donkerck haven the shippe called the *Hownde*, ij grett hulkes with viij peces of brasse ordynance of a syde, ij galleyes and xvij flye botes, well apparelled for the warres, which ij hulkes ar laden with corne and vyttayll, and the rest of the shipeng have allso more than their ordynary vyttaylleng, which is for to vyttayll theme beffore Zurycksea, and fyrst to transport Champignye over. The ile called the Clender, over agaynst Zurycksea, is taken by the Prynce, wherby the assegers of Zurycksea ar browght in danger of famyssment, and will make theme leve the enterprise of Zurycksea (which now is newly vyttayled), for otherwyse it wilbe costly to vyttayll the sayd assegers still with the hasard and expence of a whole navye.

The Duke of Arescott will nott take the charge of the gouvernement uppon him. The Spanyardes stele awaye, bothe by Calyce and by Kempen into Frawnce. A mutynye of the Spanyardes hath byn repressed att Brusselles <sup>1</sup>. Champignye hopes to take shippeng this night att Dover.

<sup>1</sup> « Nous heusmes icy une venue mardi dernier que les chevaux légers se vindrent présenter le matin devant ceste ville, dont plusieurs heurent opinion qu'il y avoit quelque intelligence par dedans. Incontinent toutes les boutiques se serrèrent, et fut le peuple fort esmeu et en armes, que mena quelque artillerie légère aux murailles, et forces harcquebougues à crocq et la munition de la ville. Les portes furent serrées, et les povres villaigeois venoient saulver leurs petits meubles, et fut la fraieur plus grande que le dangier..... Tout le monde se mectoit en armes contre eulx, et furent ceulx de la garnison de ceste ville estonnés de veoir les bourgeois si prompts et animés contre eulx. (Pior, *Corr. de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 58.)

I have grett thinges to revele to Your Lordship, butt they may be dangerows to the reveler, and yett is as dangerows to this whole Estate.

The 24 of marche 1575.

(Record office, Cal., n° 687.)

MMMCXX.

*Avis des Pays-Bas* (Résumé).

(ANVERS, 25 MARS 1576.)

Nouvelles diverses.

The Duke of Arskott hathe bene desired to take the name of gouvernement upon him, which he hathe refused to do; and the Comte Mansfeld lykewise hathe refused to command over the gendarmery.

Monsieur Barlement rulethe in effect at this tyme more then all the rest and would be content t'accept the gouvernement himselfe and to make his sonne Monsieur de Hierges commander of ye men of warre; but his ambition is noted and misliked of the rest of ye nobilitie.

Julian Romero and especiallye Rhoda have travaled all they can to make Monsieur Barlamont governoure of the Lowe-Contrie for the presente tyme; and Julian presenteth a request as principall Maestro del Campo to have authoritie geven him over all the men of warr, which be in the countries; but the Duce of Arskott brake his request in peces.

For matters of pollicie, the Counsell of the Estates do joyntlye, amongst whom especially subscribe the Duce of Arskott, Counte Mansfelde, Count Barlamont, Monsieur d'Assonville and Viglius as president of this Counsell of the Estates.

Hieronymo Rhoda hathe thrust himselfe into this Counsell, beinge a Spaynyard, which is contrarie to ye privileges, and yet ye rest accept him into ye companye to shew ther loyalltie towards the King in this tyme that a governour is wantinge.

This use the Kings seale of armes unto their ordinances and letters, and Rhoda subscribeth after a solempne maner: *Rhoda vidit.*

For matters concerninge warre, thay have a counsell apart, called the Counsell of warr, wherof the chiefe at this present ar Gonzaga, Romero, Davila and Rhoda.

These conclude nothinge befor the Counsell of Estates have approved the resolutions. And therefore the Counsell of th'Estates enter often into ye Counsell of warr.

For matters of lawe, the courtes of ye provinces followe th'accustomed manner, and ye Previe Counsell, which is a counsell apart, standethe still as it did. It is founde that the King dothe owe unto some regimentes six yeares paye, some five, and unto them ar left behind hand three.

The King hathe above fiftie five thousand in pay in thes Lowe-Countries.

The xix and xx of this presente, ther came to ye gates of Bruxelles to ye number of 1400 Spaniards, the most of them horsmen with divers Italians amonge them, hopinge that ye Spaniardes that were within the towne, would have ayded ther purpose; but they were not suffrid to enter, and Romero himselve gave verie strayte order that all the Spaniards, which were within the towne, shoulde kepe them within ther howses.

The same revoulted Spaniardes have sithence assembled themselves at Oudenard, wher fore Monsieur de Swevinghem is governer, in the markett place, in verie resolute manner demandinge ther pay; but he toke suche order as they were gladd in th'ende to depart the town by one and by one at one gate which was so shutt as two could not go at once.

Afterward they assembled themselves together agayne about Bruxells and spoyled ij villages, wherupon Romero was authorized by ye Counsell of th'Estates to go forth the agaynst them with ij hundreth harquebousiers and divers companies of the best of the footemen.

Counte Mansfeld is appointed governore of Bruxells, where he hathe a verie fayre house of his owne <sup>1</sup>.

It is daylie loked what wilbe th'end of Romero's commission: some saye that the elected of the revolted and he ar makeinge an accord. The Spaniard that should have been imbarcked at Dunkerke, stole away privilye in so muche that the magistrate was compelled to cause all the gates to be shutt to kepe them frome getting away.

Newes ar come that of late the Princes men have gotten the iland called Anne-land.

The Spaniardes ar verie uncourteouslye handled here in all townes through which they passe, and the brute is still that the Kinge of Spaine is dead, but the certayntie thereof unknowne <sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> « Mons<sup>r</sup> de Mansfeld est arrivé, qui n'aurat pas grande vogue, car il se dit partout les moïens qu'il at tenu pour s'insinuer vers le deffunct, et que, n'ayant icy rien que perdre et se souciant peu des seigneurs, il passeroit tousjours outre en ce que luy seroit commandé. Il se veult valoir d'avoir prins les armes pour Sa Majesté; mais c'est à sa fille qu'il le doibt, pour le mariage qu'elle feit, comme il estoit aussi avant plongé en la lighe des flesches que nul aultre. » (Pior, *Corr. de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 50.)

<sup>2</sup> « Il y at icy venu ung bruiet d'Anvers de la mort du Roy, et que les marchants auroient heu advis par Angleterre. Je le tiens pour faulx, car l'on l'a dict encores. L'on debvroit avoir esté premier adverti de la maladie. » (Pior, *Corr. de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 58.)

Ther is one here named Partant, an astronomer, who did, ij years past, prognosticate that he should die A° 1576, before S<sup>t</sup> Johnes daye.

(*British Museum, Harley, 285, fol. 20.*)

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MMMCXXI.

*La reine d'Angleterre au prince d'Orange.*

(WESTMINSTER, 28 MARS 1576.)

Lettre de créance pour Guillaume Davison qui est chargé de proposer une suspension des hostilités.

Hault et excellent Prince très-cher et très-aymé cousin, Comme ainsi soit que nous ayons promis à Messieurs vos députés d'envoyer ung gentilhomme tout exprès à ceulx qui pour le présent gouvernement pour le Roy nostre bon frère là aux Pays-Bas, et les requérir d'une abstinence et cessation des armes et hostilité pour quelque temps convenable, affin que ce pendant gens de qualité et amateurs de paix, tant d'ung costé que d'autre, se pourroient assembler et traicter de rechef de quelque bon accord par où tout se puisse rabiller et une bonne paix et réunion estre establye ausdiets pays : à quoy, s'ils veullent accorder, nous avons donné charge à ce porteur, nostre féal et bien aymé serviteur Messire Guillaume Davison, gentilhomme de nostre maison, de se trouver aussi devers vous et de nostre part vous requérir du mesme et vous communiquer et adviser outre ce des choses qui nous semblent vous pouvoir grandement profiter en cest endroit. En quoy vous prions luy vouloir croire comme nous-mesmes et, en cas qu'accorderez aussi à ceste nostre motion (comme espérons que ferez), cedict porteur retournera devers la partie dudict seigneur Roy pour ce leur donner à entendre, fourny et instruit de toute autre chose qu'il vous semblera bon luy communiquer pour l'avancement de cest affaire <sup>1</sup>. Et, ainsi faisant fin de cestes, prions Dieu,

<sup>1</sup> Walsingham écrivait le 12 avril 1576 :

*I am sorry Your Lordship fyndeth yourselfe in no better state of healthe, whereof I wyll not fayle to advertise Her Majestic.*

*By the inclosed, Your Lordship may see howe the Prince of Orange's state groweth to declynation, whereby of necessitie he shall become a preye eyther to Spaine or Fraunce.*

*I do not looke that M. Davyson shall have any good answer : in his case wordes wyll not helpe.*

hault et excellent Prince, très-cher et très-aymé cousin, qu'il vous ait en sa saincte garde.

Escript à nostre palais de Westmynstre, ce xxviii<sup>e</sup> jour de mars 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 702.)

MMMCXXII.

*Instructions données à Guillaume Davison.*

(29 MARS 1576.)

Exposé des considérations que Davison aura à présenter au Conseil d'État. — Il rappellera la mission qu'Élisabeth a confiée à Cobham pour rendre aux Pays-Bas la paix et leur ancienne prospérité. — Réponse qui lui a été donnée par Philippe II. — Négociations du prince d'Orange et de Henri III. — Pour les arrêter, Élisabeth a demandé que des députés des États de Hollande se rendissent à Londres; et elle a obtenu d'eux que tout fût suspendu jusqu'à ce qu'elle pût offrir sa médiation à Requesens. — Réponse évasive de Requesens. — Il importe de savoir du Conseil d'État s'il est investi du pouvoir de négocier ou s'il croit pouvoir le faire à raison de la gravité des circonstances. — Si le Conseil d'État est disposé à négocier, Élisabeth enverra en Espagne afin d'obtenir l'adhésion du roi. — Arguments à faire valoir près des deux parties. — Le Conseil d'État ne peut pas méconnaître les motifs qui existent pour Henri III d'accepter les propositions qui lui sont faites. — D'autre part, les États de Hollande ne peuvent perdre de vue tout ce qu'ils auraient à craindre de la domination des Français.

After the delyvery of our letters to those whome you shall finde to supplie the place of governement there at the tyme of your arrivall, you shall then let them understand from us that, aswell thorough the great pittie and commiseration we had of the longe continued calamities of those countries, to whome we beare an especiall favor in respect of the ancient amitie and mutuall commerce and trafficque betwin this our crowne and them, as also that yt might evidentlie appeare to the worlde that the brute geven out by certein malicyouslie affected that we should be a cheif nurisher of theis civill warres, is altogether slaunderous and utterlie untrue, we weare moved this last sommer

It is too publykely knowen that Her Majesty meaneth not to be a dealer. If that might have bene held in suspense, it might have brought forthe some good effect. This daye, I looke to heare out of Flaunders. And, so leaving further to trouble Your Lordship, I most humbly take my leave.

At White-Hall, the 12 of april 1576. (WRIGHT, *Elizabeth and her times*, t. II, p. 51.)

to send into Spaine a gentleman of good quallitie unto the Kinge, our good brother, to perswade with him to grow to some good accorde with his subjectes now aliened from him, wherbie those countries, lattle of all others in Europe the most flourishinge thorough the great commerce and trafficque established there, though now by reason of the late civill and intestine warres greatlie impoverished, might be by a happie peace not onlie restored to their former flourishinge estate, but also that the evident perill of the losse of the said countries (in case, thorough desperation of the recovery of the Kinge their soveraigne's favor, his said subjectes now withdrawn from his obedience, should geve them selves over to the gouvernement of some other prince) might in tyme be avoyded.

To this our advice and perswasion we receaved at the said Kinge, our good brother's, handes, answeare that for our sake, uppon the submission of his said subjectes, he would receive them to grace and favor, and would also acquainte his governor with both our advice, and this his answeare geven in that behalf.

And, in the meane tyme, whiles our said servant was in Spaine, beinge geven to understand that dyvers secreat messengers, after the breakinge of the treatie of Breda, passed betwin the Prince of Aurange and the Frenche Kinge, which gave us just cause to suspect that the said Prince, despairinge of any accorde and beinge at that tyme greatlie pressed by the Kinge's forces, was likelie to throwe him self into the said Frenche Kinge's protection, we saw yt a matter of great consequence, and so fitt in tyme by the Kinge to be looked unto, and withall not to be contemned by us, in respect that the mischief that might ensue therof, could not but reache unto us, as therupon we sent two especiall messengers, the one to the late Governor, the other to the Prince of Aurange. To the Governor, to acquainte him how much we feared the daungerous effectes that might follow of this late intelligence betwin the said Prince and the Frenche Kinge, advisinge him, therefore, for the preventinge therof, to renew the treatie lattle broken of at Breda. To the Prince, to dissuade him from dealinge with Fraunce, as also to incline him self to yeld to the renewinge of the said treatie. And in this behalf from the Commendador we weare absolutlie answeared that he had no commission to deale any further in the treatie. The Prince and States of Holland, for our satisfaction towchinge the pointes propounded by our minister sent thether unto them, sent hether unto us certen deputies of theirs to treat with us in that behalf, with whome, after soundrie conferences had both by us and our Counsell, we did, with no smaule difficultie difficultie (so greatlie doe thei dispeare of such a sound reconciliation with the Kinge, as maie be with their suertie), winne at their handes an assent to stay from practisinge with any forrain prince, untill such tyme as we might send unto the late Commendador to procure an abstinence of armes, wherbie the treatie intermitted might be againe renewed, sithence whose deathe,

whether yt be that thei doubt that thei, the present governors, have no authoritie to yeld to the said abstinence (a thinge by them alleadged), or that of late thei have ben put in some new hope by Fraunce of supporte (a matter both we and thei have just cause to feare, the likelihood of peace in that countrie dylie considered), thei now refuse, beinge earnestlie pressed therto by us to promise us to forbear to receave releefe ells where, untill such tyme as we might receave answer from the said governors, whether thei had not sufficient authoritie to yeld to the said abstinence. Theis circumstances of the manner of our proceadinges you maie tell them we thought most expedient to lay downe particularlie before them, aswell that our frindlie and honorable sorte of dealinge towards the King, our good brother, their master, maye appeare, as also that thei, by due consideration had of the said circumstances, maie looke so deepe into the matter, as the great perill, that is like otherwies evidentlie to ensue, maie be avoyded, and the said countries continew under their ancient obedience.

And, in this behalf, you maie shewe them that, as we conceive yt, there is no way to prevent the said perill, nor any on thyng that they now can do, for the profit of the Kyng and his contrees than to yeld presentlie to an abstinence, and yet the matter so to be ordred as it may be without dishonor to the Kyng or discredit to them the governors, whereunto yf thei shall consent, then shall you let them understand that we have appointed you to repaire out of hand into Holland, as it wer originally of our owne motion, to perswade with the Prince and States to send unto the said governors to be humble sutors unto them for the said abstinence, for that we thincke yt more honorable the same to be by the said Prince and States required (beinge subjectes) then by th'others to be offered, beinge governors for the Kinge, their soveraigne. And that we further meane (the said governors yeldinge to an abstinence), uppon knolledg had from thence, to dispatche one with all dilligence into Spaine, to perswade the Kinge to send unto them so ample commission to deale in the said treatie, as, without further sendinge thether, thei maie have authoritie to assent to asmuch as shall seeme unto them maie stand with the Kinge's honor to yeld unto, the necessitie of his State considered.

But, yf thei shall alleadge that thei have no autoritie, either to yeld to an abstinence or to any treatie of peace, you shall then signifie unto them that we judge that what authoritie was geven unto the Commendador, is cast uppon them, who (as we conceive by answer we received from the Kinge by our servant, Sir Henrie Cobham) had some such authoritie geven him, though not longe before his death he denied the same, beinge written unto by Monsieur Champagny, at our request, to know of him whether he had received from the Kinge, his master, any such commission, yet so much doe we build uppon the Kinge's promise as, notwithstandinge the said Commendador's deniall, we are most constantlie perswaded that he received some authoritie in that behalf, and do therefore desier greatlie by them to be satisfied therein.

But, suppose yt be true that thei have no authoritie from the King, you maie yet let them understand that we would gladlie know how, uppon this admonition geven by us of the evident perill the whole countrie is like to be in (the Frenche settinge foote in Holland and Zelland), thei shalbe hable to justifie unto the Kinge the deniall of the said abstinence, when the effectes of the perill, which we by no vayne conjectures are lead to feare, shall take place. We are not ignorant that governors have their authoritie limited; but, uppon extremities, for the avoydinge of great and apparant mischiefes, yt is no lesse justifiable for them to passe their limites then blameworthy for others, beinge not forced therto by like necessitie, not to conceive them selves within the same.

And, for that perhapes thei maie object that thei see no such perill like to grow from France, alleadinge that the Frenche Kinge hath enough to doe to quenche the fier at home, his brother and the chief princes of the blood beinge aliened from him, that he is poore, beinge wasted thorough the longe continuance of the civill warres, that there is a generall diffidence and distrust amongst the subjectes of that realme, and lastlie that thei, by whose advise the said Kinge is chieflie guided, are greatlie affected unto the Kinge of Spaine, their master, and will therfor impeache any thinge that shalbe attempted against him. For answeare whereof, in case any such objections be made, you shall let them understand, as of your self, that first, wheras yt is objected that the Kinge is entertained with home troubles, yet, yf yt be well weighed that the inwarde warres of that realme can no way be better, nor more easelie extinguished then by castinge their owne fier into their neighbour's howse, yt will then appeare that that which is thought wilbe an impediment, will rather serve for a provocation then otherwies.

And yt is to be thought also that the present commoditie and proffit laid before both partes now at division, with no smaule augmentation of marine forces, will not a litle move them to the acceptation of such offer as is likelie to be made unto them by the Prince and States. And where yt maie be said that the princes and nobles of that realme are divided amonge them selves, yet, yf good presumptions deceave not, thei are not so divided in faction betwixt them selves as thei are banded and . . . in heart against a common enemie, of whose growinge mightines thei have cause to be jealous. And, as for the povertie of the Kinge of France, yf he have money to beare out his owne civill warres, much more shall he abound to make and maintaine his forrein, the one half of that which hath ben employed in civill dissention, will defray the whole expence of all his forrein warre. Besides, that realme shalbe disburdened of that multitude of men of warre, which now eateth and devoureth yt. And, as towchinge the generall diffidence that maie be surmised to be amongst them, the same will soone be removid for the singular proffit and commoditie that both partes shall reape by castinge themselves in mutuall concorde uppon the Low-Countries, and will cause them easelie to condescend to an unities. And, where yt is presumed that such, by whose advise the



said French Kinge is now chieflie guided, beinge affected, as thei are, unto the Kinge, their master, will not suffer any thinge to be attempted against him, yt weare very dangerous for the Kinge to build or depend with so great hazard upon such a presumption, when yt is apparant that aswell the necessitie of the said Frenche Kinge's State, as the benefitt of the offer, cannot in all likelyhood of reason but drawe him to the acceptation of the same. And, yf any shall advise the contrarie, he shall then discern with what passions thei are lead. Besides, yf yt be considered how aptlie that offer will serve to remove his brother further from him, by plantinge of him in theis countries (except yt be thought that he preferreth another prince's safetie before his owne), yt will then appeare that in reason yt is not to be thought that he will make refusall of the said offer.

And heere wee would not have you omitt in anie wyse the late example and like practise of the French to avoyd the mischiefs likely to have fallen on them by reason of some unkindnes between their late Kinge, that dead is, and his brother, whoe nowe raigeth, for removeing whereof the Kinge that dead is, spared no cost to remove his sayd brother further from him, with the title of the kingdome of Polonia.

Yf, notwithstanding such reasons as shalbe by you alleadged to induce them to yeld to an abstinence, you shall not be hable to drawe them to consent therunto, you shall then plainelie let them understand that we cannot take yt in good parte to see so smaule regarde had to our frindlie advice geven in that behalf, and that, howsoever thei conceive of the matter, we see yt so full of perill to us and our Estate as percase by ther lack of consideration we shalbe constrained, for the prevention thereof, to put that in execution that we would not willinglie doe otherwies then constrained therto of meere necessitie; and, if you shall fynd diversite of disposition amongst the Counsellors of that Estate toward our motion, so as some may appeare to allow therof, though not in publick sort, with such you shall deale to have ther advises, what war metest for you to do by waye of perswasions to be used in our name for the obteyning of a consent to the abstinence.

On the other side, yf thei shalbe drawn to consent to an abstinence, then shall you procure a safe conduct at their handes to reapeire with all speede to the Prince of Aurange and States, whome you shall lett understand that you finde in the said governors, upon the perswasions used in our name by you in that behalf, a disposition to yeld to an abstinence, in case the said Prince and States shall requier the same, in such humble and dutyfull sorte as apperteyneth unto subjectes, which thinge we thincke most convenient for them to doe. And, in case thei shall refuse the doinge therof, thei shall geve both us and all other princes just cause to enter into a hard conceipt of their actions. And for our selves we cannot but interpret the said refusall to proceade of some resolution and determination he hath with France, which thinge you shall let both him

and the States understand, that, beside the new dangers wherunto they shall bryng them selves unto, we see yt of so great a consequence and perill also unto us and our Estate to see them and ther contries possessed by a strang prince and brought to a servitude, which in short tyme they can not escape, as we shall be constrayned to oppose our selves thereunto, to the uttermost of our power.

And, uppon this matter, you shall further signifie unto them that, yf the mischefe that shall growe unto them by the supporte thei shall have of Fraunce, be well weighed and deepele looked into by due consideration had of the insolencie of that nation, which both Naples, Sicil and Milan can witnes, thei shall then see that the relief that will grow to them that waie, wilbe like as yf a man, to escape hanginge, seeketh to drowne himself. And, yf uppon this protestation the Prince and States shall yeld to send to the said governors to requier an abstinence, then is our pleasure that you returne to Brusselles or to such place where you shall finde the said governors to reside, and there to make reporte unto them how you finde the Prince and States inclined, where our meaninge is you maie advertice us from tyme to tyme how thinges shall passe, untill you shalbe by our order revoked.

On th'other side, yf the said Prince and States shall refuse to requier the said abstinence, then shall you, with all the speede you maie, make your repaire hether unto us, that we maie theruppon take such further order for the staie of those matters as to us shalbe thought convenient, and, ether by letter or some convenient messinger, certifie the governours of the said Prince's and States' allegations of the refusall.

(Record office, Cal., n° 705.)

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MMMCXXIII.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(29 MARS 1576.)

Autorisation donnée aux députés de la Hollande d'exporter des draps. — Départ de Champagne. — Projets des Espagnols contre Bruxelles. — Le duc d'Arschot refuse le gouvernement. — Assemblée des États à Bruxelles. — Dissentiment entre les magistrats d'Anvers et le comte d'Altaemps. — Succès du prince d'Orange. — Les soldats espagnols et wallons se débandent.

I beinge weake and sycklye to daye (my right honorable good Lordship) and, havinge taken phisycke withall, I am fayne to use my brother's hand unto you insteade

of myne one. Thes partyes have receaved the Queen's Majestic's graunte for the lycence of ij<sup>m</sup> l. clothes, verye thankfullye, acknoleginge your favor the more in that you have not fayled to shewe it even then whan your sycknes moost trobled you, but they will not forget to shewe ther dewtyes agayne towards Your Lordship, whan they shalbe in place to do it. Even nowe they have sent to my Lord Keper to passe ther sayd graunte under Greate Sealle, and to morrowe, in the afternonne, they departe hence, to whome, as they humblye commende them selves to Your good Lordship (namelye Paulle de Busse), so yf ther occure anye thinge in the meane tyme wherin Your Lordship may have cause to use ther sarvis, thay saye thay wolde be glad understand it and obaye it.

This morninge, the poost is com out of the Lowe-Countrys, by whome I parseve that Champagneye toke seas yesterdaye in the morninge, by the breake of daye, at Dover, in a verye smalle vessayll, be lyke to stealle a passage whyle the brute was that he wolde be transported in one of the Queen's Majestie's shippes.

Thes matters of Brussels growe sharper and sharper; for, wher Barlemont was of intellygence with Julian Romero to have delyvered to the Spanyardes the keyes of Brussels' gattes, the sayd keyes were taken by the magistrattes of the cyttye from the custody of Barlamont and delyvered to the Countye Mansfelde. A practyse was afterwarde discovered that the Spanyardes had an intent to set fyer in certayne partes of the cyttye, that, whiles men were attentyve to repres the same, the Spanyardes myght have brought in more companye and have byn masters of the place; but this occasyoned that the Spanyardes were commanded to kepe ther lodgenges uppon payne of kyllinge, yet nowe thay have leve to retyre into Hennolde uppon great intreatye to withstande the insolent doinges of the horsmen that oppresse the people verye sore ther aboutes, therby to exacte ther paye the rather, whose doinges doth styre up the hole cuntrye agaynst them and agaynst the holle spannishe nation and government.

The Duke of Aresscotte styll refuseth to take anye government uppon him for the diffycultyes that he seethe to increse daylye.

The Stattes ar assembled at Brussels generallye to take order for the affares and government of the cuntrye, which dyet was to begyn on tuisdaye last, havinge in the meane tyme bent ther ordynaunce agaynst certayne numbers of the Kinges horsmen that presented them selves before the towne to let the proceedinges of this generoll and free dyet.

At Andwerpe, Count Haniball of Altems, who hath a garyson of Almayns in the towne, wolde have brought in vj auncentes more, but was refused by the magistrattes ther, and his sayd companyes countermaunded.

The spanishe imbassaytor that is leyger in Fraunce, hath stayed all the letters com-

mynge out of Spayne by the iij last postes, as well thes that appertayneth to marchantes as others, and retaynes them by him, which eneresethe the rumor of the Kinge's deathe with some, and to some other it is a suspicion of further inconvenyences that is a workenge, and may showe a difydence in the sayd imbassater towards the Lowe-Countreys that he wolde not have the Kinge's secretes knowen unto them, while a Spanyard is not placed in the government for the King.

The assemble at Brussells hath publyshed that all men, that ar creditors to the King of Spayne or ar interested by him, shall bringe in ther demaundes to them, wherby the sayd Kinge's debtes and state shalbe leyd open to the worlde, and the injuries that men have suffred, be manyfested.

The flete that went out of Donkerke to attempte somewhat about Sureceseaye, is returned very sore wetherbeton, havinge donne nothing, savinge the sogers and maryners amonge them selves have fallen into question and debate, wherby harme is com to both sydes.

The Prynce hath taken Tertollen and S<sup>t</sup> Marten's-Dycke in S<sup>t</sup> Annysland, besydes Barrow, wherby ther is nowe no passage from Andwarpe towards Sureceseaye, but directlye before Flusshinge, which will aske a greter power and a greter hasard to dele by sea that waye.

The spanishe and wallounde soldiers forsake ther garysons every wher, and ther ensynges, some for drede, some for lacke a head. Yet the Spanyers seke to joyne them selves together by all menes they can, which is the substance of that which I received this daye by the post.

Nowe it may plese Your Lordship, because it requires spede, to geve order, ether to M<sup>r</sup> Skynner or M<sup>r</sup> Walter, that Peter Serres and Mathias Lull may have an open letter from Your Lordship to M<sup>r</sup> Burde, the customer, or to anye other customer to whome it shall appertayne, that thay maye enjoye in theyr names the Queen's Majestie's graunte abovesayd, to whose trust it is commytted, accordinge to that which is sygnified under the Great Sealle. Wherwith, moost humble prayenge for Your Lordship's healthe and stronge recovery, I take my leve.

From Rederosse strete, this xxix<sup>th</sup> of marche, anno 1576.

I am boulde to appoynte this bearer for Your Lordships sayd letter to the customer in the behalfe aforesayd, that he maye brynge it with him, yf Your Lordship's leasure so serve for it.

(Record office, Cal., n° 704.)

## MMMCXXIV.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(30 MARS 1576.)

Armements des reîtres en Allemagne. -- Popularité du prince d'Orange. — Exportation de draps accordée à Paul Buys.

By the letters, mi Right Honorable good Lord, that ar wrytten owtt of Germany, Mandesslowe and Plate's horsemen, which ar gethred for the frenche King's servyce to the number of 5000, ar passed the Ryne allredy towards Frawnce. There be allso 5000 horsemen more to be assembled for the Prynce of Condy and the servyce of that syde. The three Bisshops Electors, with certayn other Prynces and Bysshops, that appartayne to the Leage of Landsberge, do mete furthwith together, but the certayn place and daye is not knowen: they procede so secrettly theryn. By letters owtt of Polonia ys wrytten that the Vayvode is allredy crowned in Cracovia, but from the Emperor's Cowrt is the contrary given owtt, alledging that a principall partye, a Palatyne, who dyd most sustayne the cawse agaynst the Emperor, is taken in the fylld by a frynd of the Emperor's and browght to Vienna, wherby th'Emperor is lyke to prevayll in his electyon. Yet the Turke hath threttened the sayd Emperor, in case thatt he desist nott from th'interprise of Polonia, to lend his forces agaynst hym.

The people of the Low-Contreyes do openly and generally brust owtt in voyces of favor towards the Prince of Orenge, as though that he were stalled allredy amongst theme for governour, who by these voyces and demonstrations do even urge to call hym in to take the charge of all uppon him, but suerly they be lyght people in these partes of Braband and Flanders, apte uppon ani hope or passyon to utter themsellves so far as though they wer constantly bent to lyve and dye in that they hath taken uppon theme, when presently, uppon the lest yll tydenges and successe that happens, they abandon themsellves and their fryndes with basser myndes than women may have.

Herewith I send to Your Lordship the grawnt for the 2000 clothes under the Grett Seall, which your goodnes obteyned for Powll Buys and his colleges, who, because they ar to depart at ij of the clock, do desire Your Lordship's favorable letter open to M<sup>r</sup> Burd and other customers, to whom ytt doth appartayne for their dispatche without staye, when the occasyon is presented to theme to transport ani clothes; and yf Your Lordship will commande theme or me ani thing elles uppon your sayd grawnt, ytt

may please you to signefie it by this berer, who, for their haste and expedysyon, is to attend uppon Your Lordship for your letter and your answer, wherwith verry humbly I fynisse.

The 30 of marche, in Redcrosse strete, 1573.<sup>4</sup>

(*Record office, Dom. papers, vol. 103, n° 20.*)

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MMMCXXV.

*Journal de Daniel Rogers.*

(AVRIL 1576.)

Nouvelles diverses.

*Occurrences of the monneth of aprill 1576.*

I came to Middleborow from Andwarpe the 5<sup>th</sup>, wher I found M<sup>r</sup> Cobbham, M<sup>r</sup> Herbert and the ladie Cavagliero Gyraldi his wyfe.

The 9 departed M<sup>r</sup> Cobbham with the ladie in the Quenes shippe *Achates*, of which was cappitayne sir Thomas Cotton.

The Admirall went to the sea the 3 of aprill to pursew 18 shippes of the Dunckerkers, which were gonne towards Browershaven as the 3 of aprill; but he could do nothings at that tyme because they were entred into the haven. From thence the Admirall went towardes Brill, and there met with the Prince. There, together with the victaling shippes, they tooke ther way to the Plat.

The 11<sup>th</sup>, the Admirall went to the head of Ziricksea to dissolve and breake the pallauzado, which the enemy had ther made, ther he was compelled in the night to present a combat unto the enemy. They fought six houres longe. The Admirall tooke ij principal galleys of the enemy, named *the Admirall* and *the Vice-admirall*. In the *Admiral* was the Vice-admirall of Andwerpe, Adrian Coppejans, whome they cast over boorde <sup>1</sup>. Besides this, they sett on fire a fleete boat of the ennemyes. The Admirall had of his fourty souldiers killed and hurt, besides the drowned. One of ther assauers..... No valliantness showed in the Spanyardes or Wallons.

<sup>1</sup> Who escaped out of the galley : what is become of him, they can not tell, many shott after him being in the water.

The 16, commandement was given by the Admirall to all flee boates to come with diligence before Browsershaven.

The 17, ther arose a sedition in Bromwell his enseign at Leyden. George Hill, Thomas Philippes and one Commins drove all the reast unto his syde, so that Bromwell was leaft alone with his liuetenant and four corporalles. They would not go towardes Worden, as the Prince had commanded, but tooke the gate towardes Harlen and fortified it and vaunted them selves to be for the King of Spayne and the Queen, and not to have come to serve the Prince. The Prince, fearinge lest they might have understandinge with them of the towne of Harlen, sent forthwith fourty horse and two enseignes to Leyden. They gave them selves at the last, and the three above mentioned were put to death, ther heades cutt of, besides six of the others kept in prison, of which some were to smart for ther violence.

The entreprise which should have taken effect at Amsterdam the 26 marche, came to no effect, as we understande in this monneth.

The Princes souldiers went into West-Friesland and had allmost taken Harlinge. Having spoyled divers villages, they came away.

The 14, newes came that Martin Baes and his company was taken by the Dunckerkers, as they were a saylinge for Holland, and brought prisonners to Andwerpe.

The 16, I delivered four letters unto Wasshington to carry into Englande, two to M<sup>r</sup> Secretary Smith, one letter to M<sup>r</sup> Wallsingam, the fourth to M<sup>r</sup> Doctor Willson.

Casenbrooke sent unto the King of Dennemarcke.

The Prince wroate unto Haultayn, seinge the Estates solde abbey landes in Zelande, that he bought some for him.

Newes come that the Admirall was slayne of his marryners.

Mos. Textor receaved packettes out of England sent out of France from the Duke of Alençon, Kinge of Navarre and Prince of Condé : the contents were that Mons. La Fin and Bessons were retourned from the King because the King would accorde but four townes of suche as the Hugonottes had for ther suertie, without generall exercise of religion; and, whereas the Duke desired one of the four duchies apennages of the crowne, the King offred him the duchie of Anjou and Berry with the country of Turayne; item to graunt unto Casimir his accorde, which was that Metz, Verdun and Thoul should be gouverned by suche as followed the relligion; that the Prince and the Duke Casimir with Allençon were passed the Loyre at S<sup>t</sup>-Désiré, and that they were at Montargis the 7 of aprill to go right towardes Parris; item that the King of Navarre with his force was a cominge to the Duke of Alençon and that the Duke Casimir was sent with 4000 ruyters to meete the King of Navarre; that the King of Navarre demanded of the King his wyfes dowry, item his fathers jerciens, and that some of contracts betwixt Navarre and the crowne of France were observed; item that the ayde which

was promysed him to the recoveringe of his kingdome, were given him; item that for the King were come 1000 ruyters into France out of Germanye; item that the King hath sent into Germany unto the Busshoppes to lende him 200,000 crownes; item that the Tureke were mynded to make ware in Hungary against the Emperour, which was the occasion that the King could have no further ayde of Germanye; item that the people even at Paris beginne to murmur greatly against Guizardes and Italians.

The 19 of february, the Count Edhard of Embden wroate letters unto the Commendador, which I sawe at Ostende in marche, wherby he thancked the Commendador for investinge him into the territory and landes of the lady Hudron.

The 19, came newes that the Count Vander Berge, who hath maryed the Prince his sister, should be arrived at Tessell with 5000 rueters as the 15 of aprill, and that the Count of Hollache, who hath maryed the Prince his other sister, should come likewise with other forces.

The 19 at night, about 9 of the clocke, I departed from Vere towards Brill with Mons. Textor, and came to Brill the 20 of the same monnethe, about 9 of the clocke, where wee founde the Prince and Ammiral.

Mons. Fumée, the second liuetenant in Guienne for the King of Navarre, came unto the Prince and offred him twenty enseignes from the King. The Prince made him good cheer and through Hollande defrayed him.

The Frenche are greatly esteamed by the Prince, and our Englishe littell made of; and, against the accorde, the Adventiours shippes stayed.

Mons. le Conte Hollache was hurt in the arme, rased a littell in the assaylinge of the pallauzado, and the Admirall and he aboarded the fleeboate; ther servantes moche hurte with pikes.

The 17, ther was a shippe laden with corne, departing and sayling from Brill towards Ter Vere, which was interceped by them of Browsershaven, wherfore an ordre is taken that Walchren shall mayntayne four shippes of warre, and Hollande six, to mayntayne the traffique of one country unto the other agaynst them of Browsershaven.

The 20, I arryved at Brill. The 21, about 10 of the clocke, departed the Admirall, the Counte of Hollache and the Prince's fleete towards Ziricksea. The 22, the Prince sent six shippes of warre more; the 25, likewise sent more souldiers that waye, which daye the wynde beganne to be south-east.

The Prince hath received newes from Alexander Hauttayn that the Admirall Sancho d'Avila was solemnely buried at Antwarpe.

The Princes men, when they carryed away the two galleys, the ennemyes shott nevertheless, unto whome sayd the Princes men in mocking them: « They should not » shute, that they were the Kinges galleyes. »



The 21 and 22, I supped with His Excellency at Brill, tarried longe with him before dinner and supper. He sayed that he had quitt 50,000 florins uppon Her Majesties letters.

Mons<sup>r</sup> Lanow wroate unto the Prince this monnethe and conforteth him, setting pacience before his eyes, which he especially with constancy commendeth unto him.

The 24, Capptain Martin Both with his company arryved at Brill, which daye, as the whole night before, the shott was harde from the flecte before Zirickzea.

The 25, was fastinge prescribed at Bryl to pray God that a prosperous successe might ensewe for the retakinge of Ziricksea.

The Prince told me that the Count of Oldenburch, who is an Unitarius, hath possession of the county of Jeverland and that he hath placed garrysons ther allreadie.

The 24, arryved at Brill Mons. d'Estaples, counsellor to the Prince of Aurange, and brought newes of the peace made in France.

The 24 at night, I supped with the Prince and delivered unto him my writinge. Wee had longe talke after supper. He is not mynded to suffer the Merchantes Adventurers to traffick longe to Andwerpe, nether will he permit that other of Her Majesties subiectes should traffick towardes Spaigne; he stomaked at the letter written unto the Prince by M<sup>r</sup> Herbert, wherin was that Her Majestie would chasten him. He sayd that, beinge vassal unto the Emperour, the Emperour never wroate unto him any such letter.

The Prince told me that Her Majestie repeated unto Busini, the Ambassadour of Portugal his secretary, who hath bene employed in conspiracies, not only against him, but also against Her Majesty, that he had correspondence with the King of Spaigne his counsellors, by whome he understoode who they were which ever of Her Majesties counsellors served the King of Spaigne, and would tell unto me who they were, if the matter should not be opened, for by that meanes his correspondence might be hindred with his friendes undoing; item that the sending of his commissioners into England had cost above 2000 crownes with the loss of tyme, that, before three years came to an ende, Her Majestie would repent herself.

I talked with Charles Beaulieu, touching the traffickinge of the staple into Flanders. The 27, I perceaved by him that ther shal be three Hollanders appoynted to be counsellors in Zelande; item certayn Zelanders shal be appoynted to be of the Counsel of Holland to have a correspondence forth with after the victalinge of Zirickzea, and that frebuyters shal be put downe.

Uppon the writinge, which I delivered unto the Prince, he wroate unto the Admirautie-Court to let him understande what complainetes they have against the English Merchantes. Done the 27 of aprill.

The 27, I came unto Delft, as the Prince likewyse dyd, because of the Princesse which was sicke.

The 29, was kirsened the Prince his daughter. Godfather was the Count of Hollache, who came from Amelande one houre before she was kirsened; godmother the Con-tesse of Culenburche and the Countesse Palatine, the lady Carnes. Allthough his wyfes sister was for her, the child is called Louise-Julia.

The 27, the Princes flete came about Amelande. The Hollanders flete came unto Peroletz-Sluce, which they tooke, but for lacke of pioners were compelled to leave it. The Admirall tarried about Rummerswale so that, where as the enemy had victales by two kennelles of Amelande, he was stopped from both. English men did valiantly; ther capttain there was slayne : capptain Skeatte, capptain Ladenne, capptain Calton, liuetenant to Chester; capptain More hurt in three places; capptain Gerard of Egmont hurt; capptain Rottagne hurt; capptain Ambrose hurt; capptain Trelle hurt; Campell his liuetenant hurt <sup>1</sup>.

They went about to surprendre the towne of Nimegen as the 23 of aprill; but the Germanes which had the matter in hande, did not handle the thing so wel as they might, and so it tooke no effect.

The Prince hath a hundred enseignes in Holland and Zelande, and myndeth to obtaine ten more, that is in all sixteen thousand men : six thousand shal be bestowed in garrisons. With the reast, he mynde to assault the ennemy and to kepe the seas.

(Record office, Cal., n° 251.)

### MMMCXXVI.

#### *Mémoire sur les affaires des Pays-Bas.*

(AVRIL 1576?)

Examen des mesures qui pourraient être prises pour réprimer la piraterie en Zélande, soit en s'ali-  
liant au roi d'Espagne, soit en équipant une flotte, soit par d'autres moyens. — Inconvénients que  
présenteraient ces diverses mesures.

*Considerations of ye cause betwixt the Queens Majestie and hir subjects and ye Prince  
of Oreng, for ye countries of Zeland and Holland under his rule.*

Uppon ye reless of ye english shippes from Flusshing, and now ye monny which was  
required to have bene lent to ye Prince, being denyed, these thynges followyng as likely  
to ensew :

<sup>1</sup> The liuetenant of capptain Crom hurt, capptain Sansbury taken : slayne and hurt 200.

The ij marchants Goddard and Calthropp who assented to ye emprest, shall be stayed in a sort as prisoners.

All shippes of England that can be apprehended by ye Flussingers, ether comming into Zeland or Holland or crossyng ye seas, or which otherwise shall come in danger of ye Princes shippes, both estward and westward, shall be stayed, and a praye made of them.

So as without some provisions to be thought of, all traffick of marchantes upon these narrow seas, saylyng from by south northward to Yarmouth, Hull, Newcastle and so forward, and saylyng also from any part of England towardes Hamborough and ye Soond in Denmark, and all others passyng to Flanders or France, shall be subject to be spoyled.

*Considerations of ye remedies here of which, though ther may be manny thought of, yet of the same some may be better compassed than the others, and yet none so probable, but they carry with them many inconveniences with them.*

Ther ar only two generall wayes of remedies : by force or by composition; for suffrance is a ruyn to the commonwelth of this realm, except a third way might be proved by marks in England to vend our commodites to straungers reparyng to England.

The wayes to resist by force ar also dyvers :

First and most universall is to joyne with the King of Spayne;

The second is not joyning *ex professo* with the King of Spayne.

To maynteane a navy of Hir Majesty's shippes to kepe ye narrow seas, and to conduct our marchaunt shippes saylyng in ye narrow seas, both estward and westward.

And to cause all our merchant shippes to be mor sufficiently furnished with maryners and with ordonnance and munytion, accordyng to ther qualities.

And to inhibitt with all straytnes and gret paynes that no manner of commodite be carryed out of ye realm as victell, munition or marchandise to ye Princes part, nor any thyng brought from thence to ther commodite.

That great care be had, in all portes and landyng places of this realme, to stey ye Princes shippes and his men, and in no wise upon grete payne to suffer any victell to be gyven or sold to them, nor to suffer them to sell any ther preses in England, but, if any shall arryve, to sease ye same to His Majesty's use.

To stave all people of ye Princes part from departure out of ye realme, untill they may be viewed and ther estats knowne, so as ye welthiest may be stayed with ther goodes, and ye rest of ye inferior and poorer sort to depart the realm.

*The meanes how to enter to joyn with the King of Spayn against ye Prince, with the difficulties and inconveniencies thereof.*

It must be notefyed ether to ye King of Spayne, which will be very long in doying, and being oppened unto hym, it is likly, whan he shall perceave ye necessite gyveth ye cause, though inwardly he will be glad therof, yet he will mak but a cold answer therto, or will so accept it as he will draw ye Queene Majesty to a great chardg in mayntea-ning of ye force specially by sea (or els it must be oppened to ye States of ye Low-Countries).

Item, ther is nothyng to succede herof to Hir Majestye peculier proffitt by overcom-ning of ye Prince as shall do to ye King of Spayne; for ye end must be yt ye King of Spayn shall recover all his countreys both in Zeland and Holland.

Item, all these thynges may follow, and ar more lykly than otherwise. The King shall have oportunitie to use ye victory as a conqueror of ye countreys and people; for, ye Prince being conquered, ther shall be no obstacle but yt he shall at his privat will, which must be thought to be vindicated to keep those countries in subjection to mak what proffitt he can of them both to cease his chardges past and to enable hym in tyme to come.

Item, the King shall and will by all lyklood mak proffitt of all nations yt shall trade thytther, and specially of ye English, because there trade is most liable to yeld proffitt, and it is lykly ye Kyng will ow them lest favor, as it is sene he doth in Spayne.

Item, ye rest of ye inconveniencies may be infinit yt shall succede to this realme, by ye King of Spaynes recovery of those Low-Countryes as a conqueror, amongst which ye most capitall ar these :

Ye alteration of ye relligion in England;

Ye erectyng upt of ye Scotts Queene, first in Scotland and then in England;

For defence hereof a perpetuall charg intollerable to this country.

*Consideration of ye second part to use force alone without ye King of Spayn.*

The chardges of mayntenance of a navy to kepe ye narrow seas, if it shall be sufficient to gard our marchants saylyng, both estward and westward, will not be mayntened under v<sup>m</sup> l. a month, which for ye half yere will amount to lx<sup>m</sup> l.

The augmentation of our marchants shippes forces is very convenient, but therby ye hire of the shippes shall augment, and so consequently ye marchants will rayse ther merchandise.

*Consideration of ye meanes by composition.*

It may not be doone by ye Queene Majesty, because hir honor shall be therin touched;

and ye King of Spayne shall conceave great offence ; and our merchants tradyng to his countryes shall be compelled to paye new taxes for ther trade or shall be utterly prohibitt.

It may be best doone privatly by ye marchants by waye of assurances, wherof also ye King of Spayne will mak a lyk proffitt by compellyng our marchants to ye lyk with his navy.

It remayneth to be considered whyther some other meanes might not be found to induce ye Prince to be content to forbearre from depredation of our subjects, yt shall pass generally to other countrys than to Flanders, and yt such as shall trade to Flaunders, may only do it by secret bargans uppon assurances.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. V, n° 100.*)

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MMMCXXVII.

*Mémoire pour justifier les pouvoirs extraordinaires accordés au prince d'Orange.*

(AVRIL 1576.)

Par de nombreux exemples fondés sur les privilèges des diverses provinces des Pays-Bas, il est établi que, dans le cas de violation de ces privilèges, il est licite de désigner quelque noble personnage pour exercer l'autorité.

It is most certaine that the Prince is receavid in the Lowe-Contrie and hath homage done to him, not as kinge, much les as a tyrant that gouverneth all at his will and pleasure, but as a noble man and justicer under the name and title of duke and counte, to minister justice and for the obsarvauncie of lawes, statutes and ordonnaunces, eustomes and previdedges of the same countrie, wherunto he byndeth himself to the States before he is receavid and acknowleged and taken as Prince : before which obligation he is no wyse taken or acknowleged as lord of the sayd contrye.

And therefore Charles the Emperour, *anno 49*, presenting his sonne to the States and provincis of the Lowe-Contries, prayeth theym to receive him for their prince and lawfull successour to be of those Lowe-Countries, that he maye use and enjoye theym after his deceasse, accordingly as in fourme of woordes it is comprehendid in the woordes used to the States of Holland the sayd yere 1549, addinge that, because his request

was reasonable and grownded upon all right and equitie, and also was for the profit and comoditie of the sayd contries, His Majestie did undoubtedly assure himself and hope that they wolde take him for suche an one, and wolde deale therein accordingly to his request.

Which thinge they did not before, his othe taken, he promised and swore that he wolde obsarve all their privileges, rightes, franchises, customes and usaunces.

And so it is trewe and out of dowbt that their was never any lord or prince of the Lowe-Contry that had the poyntes wherin the sovereintie lyeth, but only by the consent of the said States.

For first he cannot make any new lawe or ordinaunce to concerne the contry generally without the consent of the sayd States, and this he is precisely bownd to.

Moreover he cannot, nether could he at any tyme proclayme warre agaynst the contry without the consent and advise of the sayd States.

He could not, nor maye exact any extraordinary impostes or paymentes, be they never so small, without the sayd consent.

Yea any man might at all tymes appealle from a sentence gyven by the prince to the parliamentes, and in the same proceed agaynst the prince.

Agayne, the prince cannot, nether might at any tyme gyve any priviledge or immunitie contrarie to the lawes and customes of the countrie without the said consent. Even so muche that in Haynault, where ther hath alwayes bein a prynce aswell as in Holland and Zelande, the erle can do or decree nothings agaynst their customes, and, if in case he should ordayne or decree any thing against the customes with the addition of this clause *non obstantibus*, yet is it and alwayes hath bin taken for voyde and of none effect.

Yea, and that more is, he coulde nether by any decree of his change the condition of any feofe in any wyse, in so muche that of necessitie the prince is subject in Henault to the lawe and condition of feofes, aswell as the bassest gentelman in all Henault.

Ther is the same right and previledge in Brabant, and the prince maye in no wyse do agaynst it.

In like sort, the prince cannot, no might at any tyme graunte any man heigh justice in the contrie of Hennault, and they have the same lawe as Holland and Zelande have, without consent of the States.

And herupon, not longe sence, to gyve the King of Spayne some meanes to get money without anye prejudice to the sayd people, the States generally assembled gave him leave for the tearme of too yeres and that by speciall graunt to gyve severall jurisdictions, wherby the King gate some masse of money; but, that tyme being expired, he could gyve no man that authoritie in any wise.

So that it appeareth manifestly that the prince had never, nether can have any such absolut auctoritie, but was bridled, restrayned by the lawes and by the advise and consent of the States.

Behold wherefore the Three Members of Flaunders held the Emperour Maximilian then archeduc under arrest they caused to be propounded to the other members of the Generall Estates of the contrie, who tooke parte with the said Maximilian the yere 1488 the xxvii<sup>th</sup> daie of aprill, as a thing whollie concluded and resolved, wherunto ther was no doubte or replie made, saying by the proposition of their pencionarie, named M<sup>r</sup> William Zoete, that all the contries on this side were priviledged by expres auctoritie to make confederations and aliance at all tymes, when they thought good for the advantage of the commonwelthe, and therbie to provide that in their rightes, priviledges and liberties ther might not be done unto them anie wronge, let or molestation, with that by the same the should not be bound to staie for the consent of their prince. And further doe alledge for a resolute matter and knowne to all the world that it is lawfull for them to resist by good right the violent and unjust force of their prince, proving the same by familier examples of their auncestors, besides thos of ther nations and certaine reasons more which they shew for the same purpos. Also the right of vassalls which they alledge for the prouf of their saying.

And it is most assured that the contries on this side are not fallen into the handes of the House of Bourgondie and since of the House of Austrie, but by law of patronage, by meanes wherof it is found by the histories that the Flemminges divers tymes have taken armes agenst their earles and likewaies some tymes agenst the kinges of France and allwaies, when they came to a conclusion, it was by condition that their rightes, priviledges and liberties should be kepte in their parfet estate, as yt doethe appeare by the accorde made with the said Maximilian, and before in that which they made with Phillippe le Hardy, wher this clause was speciallie added to everie article.

Also, when anie earle used them contrarie to their lawe and priviledges, they either dryve them out or imprisoned them, chosing others in their place.

So they drave out the Countesse Ryquende, whom Phillip the King of France had confirmed and established unto them, and they called and received Robert le Fryson as their righte and lawfull earle.

So likewaies, after that Louis the Greate, King of France, had set and established the Earle William of Normandie, who, trusting in his owne power and in the stave of the King, did intreat them contrarie to their lawes and customes, they sent immediatlie towards Thieris, the sonne of Duc d'Aussy or Alsatie, and received him for their lord and earle, and remaynid in peace, notwithstanding the ayde of the King of France to the contrarie.

Of suche and like examples are the cronicles full, so that, if the King of Spaine would

now deme that the people and Estates had not lawfull power to doe the like, it ought to be concluded that he had possessed thes contries by an evill faithe, seing he receaved them of his auncestors who had no other title therof, but by the advoving of the Estates and contrie.

The like maie be said of Holland; for it is most certain that the Countes Jaqueline had more right, so long as she remayned alive, seing she was a lawfull ladie by succession of father and sonne, which Phillippe of Bourgondie could not have. And, notwithstanding, the Estates and contrie of Holland by common consent past and ratefyed the capitulation that the said ladie Jaqueline should yelde the Conte of Holland and Zeland to the said Duc Phillippe and should content herself with the contrie of Wiorme, the which ever since hath bin as it were sequestred and seperated from the rest of Hollande.

Also ther was yet an other here in Holland of the house of Bavieres, nearer heire then was the said Duc; but, by certen of the said capitulation, he was excluded with his heires, and the possession remayned peaceable to the Duc.

So before the contries of Holland and Zeland and Henault were fallen by mariage to the Duc William of Bavieres, sonne to the Emperour Louis de Bavieres. As he governed himself ill and agenst the lawes and priviledges of the contrie, the States deprived him of all government, yea they deposed him of his estate and called his sonne Albricht, giving him charge to gouvern the contrey by tittle of Rowart, which signifieth as much in this contrey language as a Tutor or Governor, and, after the death of him, they receavid his sonne William for their lorde and lawfull successor in the estate of his uncle.

Which thing also was sometyme practised before tyme in Brabant, when as th'Estates, seing that the Duc John, sonne of Anthoyne, did govern the commonwelth by evill counsell and contrary to the lawes and priviledges of the contrey, they toke th'administration therof from him and gave the same unto his brother Philip in that manner under the tittle of *Ruart* untill such tyme as the said Duke John promised them to ridd himselfe of his counsell and to use them of that contrey in their stead and to rule thinges there according to the lawe of the contrey, satisfyeing them in every respect as farefourth as with reason they might demaunde at his handes. And then he was agayne receavid and established by th'Estate in his ancient dignitie, after he had made with them a solemne covenant, confessing and declaring openly and frankly that, according to their lawes and ancient customes, they had power and authoritie to doo the same, and further confirming and ratefyng all that his said brother Duke Philip, during the tyme of his said government, had don, established and administred, and namely that which before th'establishment of *Rouart* had ben don and administred by the said Estates of the contrey, promising and swearing never to revenge himselfe or to be offended with them for the same, further protesting that, yf happen his heirs or succes-



sor, by any manner of meanes, should goe about t'infringe, violate or diminishe the lawes, privileges and customes of the contrey upon the said Estates or any of them, that he will and consenteth for himself, his heirs and successors, that they shall not yealde or doo any service or obeisance unto him or them, but shall be freed and delivered from their othe that they have made unto him, and that the said Estates with the greatest nombre of them may chose and establish a *Ruart*, administrator or gouvernor, such as to them shall seene good, for the most commoditie of the commonwealthe, who shall have full, absolute and soveraigne power as prince and lorde of the contrey, commanding for that cause all and every one to obey him in all thinges, according to th'ordinaunce of th'Estates, as longe as he or his said heirs doo in every respee satisfie the said Estates to their full and entier contentment. The covenant wherof is yet to be [found] signed and sealed solemnly and as yt appertayneth, amongst the chartres of the contrey, dated at Lovaine the 11<sup>th</sup> of may 1420.

Wherein is first to be seen the right and preheminence, which the said States of the contrey here have had of most ancient tyme, so farefourth as to take th'administration of the gouvernement from their princes, and to give the same to an other such as best lyke them, as often as they should presume to violate the lawes, privileges and liberties of the contrey.

Secondly yt is to be seen what conformitie there hath ben, touching this fact, in the contries of Brabant and Hollande; for, whearas paradventure they of Hollande had not so particulerly expressed in the forme of the prince's oth that they had the said authoritie and power, yet not withstanding they have shewed the same in effect as often tymes as occasion hath required to mainteyne th'authoritie and privileges of the contrey and Estates.

And indeede, although that in the particularitie of the privileges, lawes and liberties these two contries have ben different from t'other, yet nevertheles in generall as muche as toucheth the maintenance, conservation and defence of the said lawes and privileges, all the princes of the Lowe-Contreys have allwaies ben and are at this presente equal and lyke.

Especially, since that being all reduced under one head and prince, they are become as yt were one body, having many and divers membres as yt appeareth evidently by that yt hath ben allwaies seen that the leaste province of all hath as firmly and with lyke reasons allwaies mainteynid their lawes and liberties aswell as the greatest and cheifest of them all. In suche sorte as, in all that concerneth the maintayning of the privileges, all the rest of the provinces have allwaies ben equall with the duche of Brabant, as manifestly yt appeareth by proces which have some tyme rysen in th'one and th'other province touching the particuler privileges and immunities, among the which some have had more advantage then th'other. But, when neede hath ben to

mayntayne their liberties and privileges, the right and authoritie of maintayning thereof hath ben in every respect equall and lyke, so as th'one hath had as much as th'other.

That for this cause it hath oftentimes happened that, when any provynce had advantage by sum particuler privilege above an other provynce, the same province which had les advantage, chiefly if it wer interessed thereby, hath alwayes required the prince the like right of privilege, alledging the sayd equalite, and, whereas their appered no manifest raison to the contrary prejudiciall to sum other, it hath alwayes obteyned his demaund. As it is seen by many examples and namely by that the Brabanters have at all tymes had that it was not lawfull for the prince to make or appoint any other but a Brabanter to be officer, for the conformitie wherof those of Flaunders and Holland have also obteyned privilege to exclude the Brabantes from their offices, as they wer excluded to beare offices in Brabant.

This also appereth in all the contributions and requests that the prince maketh to the States to assiste him with sum ayde or subydes; for, albeit the one province do differ from the other in the service gyven, yet nevertheles all have like advantage touching their libertie to graunt or to deny, so as the prince can no more exact ayde or subydes by way of aet or commaundement of the leest province that is in all the contres, then of the Duchy of Brabant.

Which thing is also true in all other affaires, which requier the consent of the States, in the assemblée of which th'one hath their lawes and suffrages as the other, so as that, when the prince will make warre or make peaes or charge the countrees or do any other like thing prejudiciall to the privileges and liberties of any of the provinces or els concerneth in generall all the people... and doth carye awaye all souverainte, he cannot do it without the generall consent of th'Estates and aswell of th'one as of the other. And therefor it is seen that this same right that those of Brabant have used against their dukes, the same have they of Flanders, Holland, Zeland and Henault used against their erles, holding them under th'obedyence of lawes, as they of Friesland, Geldres and Overisell pretend to be yet more free against them that pretende to be their lordes then the others.

So as that, when the Duc of Brabant doth swear and promise never to do or attempt any thing against their rightes and privileges and, if he and his officers shuld so do he doth permitt and consent that he in no wise be obeyed, and likewise commandeth the nobilite and townes that they do resist him effectually and by force.

As Duc Jehan did by his charter ef Cortenberghe dated as St-Bavens the yere XIIIJ° XIIJ.

This therefor seing it is generall and toucheth not any particular privilege, but the conservation and upholdinge of the privileges in generall, doth touch aswell all other provinces as that of Brabant, as we have seen and proved by th'exemples that the other

provinces alledged also the same right and put the same in practize aswell as those of Brabant.

(Record office, Cal., n° 555.)

MMMCXXVIII.

*Daniel Rogers à Walsingham.*

(ANVERS, 4<sup>er</sup> AVRIL 1576.)

Soldats mutinés. — Nouvelles diverses des Pays-Bas, d'Italie et de Pologne.

Right honorable, the Estates of the Lowe-Countries are assembled together at Bruxelles at this tyme to consulte together as for other matters so for payment of the souldiers, without which they see many and strange seditions most of necessitie happen. Julian Romero, who, for that he was generall maestro del campo, was sent with great commission against the mutinous Spanyardes and Italians, hath not followed his commission in suche mannour as it was looked for. He hath agreed with certayne troupes of them, which, receavinge fortie crownes the man, are contentyd to abyde and attende for the rest of there wages untill a newe gouvernour be sent from the Kinge hether. When Julian marched furth of Bruxelles against thes mutinous companyes, they tooke there waye towardes Lovain, whome Julian followed. Men thought a fight would have ensewed, but, as they approched and one camme nighe unto the other, they were frendes. How be it, the most part of them are not pacified, but are departed towardes Maastricht and Liege. And because there aroase an other mutinery at Maastricht, Julian Romero was sent the 26 of marche thither to take order and appease thinges. Your Honour knoweth howe that one part of the the towne appertayneth unto the Kinge, an other part unto the Busshoppe of Liege. It chaunced so that, wheras ther be garrysons ther, aswell of Allemans as Spanyardes, that both beganne to make a tumult for there paye. And as the Spanyardes would be masters of the towne, so the Allemannes tra-valed to take the possession, beinge ayded by the burgers. Monttdocka, gouvernour there for the Kinge, advertised Julian Romero of the estate of the towne and of the trouble like to ensewe, which forthwith tooke his waye towardes Maastricht. It is not yet certenly knowen what is donne, but men judge that ether he hath allreadie pacified or will appease thinges after the same mannour he dealt with somme before, nighe Lovain.

Monsieur de Hierges, who was often sent for, arryved at Bruxelles the 26 of this

last monneth, who declared unto the Estates that it were not possible to keape his souldiers in obedience and defende suche places as the Kinge had in Hollande, unlesse present paye were sent unto the souldiers: wherfore he retourneth with 40000 crownes unto his charge. And to th'intent they which lye before Ziricksea, might doo ther best, 20000 crownes are sent unto them over whome Mondragon commandeth.

After the departure of Julian Romero from Bruxelles, there were leaft in the towne but 200 Spanyardes, wherfore there approached other companyes of Spanyardes to entre the towne; but the cittizens, assemblinge them selves together, would not suffre any one to entre. And because the Count Barlamont had gotten the keyes of the towne in his handes, whome they knewe to favour the Spanyardes, three hundred of the towne, beinge all armed, camme to his house and demanded the keyes of him. He beganne to perswade them that it would be better to lett the Spanyardes entre then to spoyle the villages, and that in the towne they might be kept better in obedience. But all was in vayne: he was compelled to deliver them the keyes of the towne, all though that the Duke of Arskot was of the same opinion of which was the Count Barlamont. Whiles thinges stande in this mannour, a post arrived out of Spayne at Bruxelles the 30 of the last, with the Kinges letters unto the Estates. The King desi-  
reth them to gouverne the provinces and to shewe there accustomed faithfullnes and to provyde for all thinges carefully untill he appoint one to gouverne the country for him. This post went into Spayne from Bruxelles and retourned from the King agayne in 25 dayes. There be, which, in 14 dayes, have made the same voyage in tyme of peace, when the wayes have ben open. Emongest other thinges which this post bringeth out of Spayne, he sayeth that there was a great bruite that the Prince of Aurenge, his sonne, should be made archebusshop shortly of Toledo, but to retourne agayne to the Lowe-Countries. Newes sent out of Fraunce and out of Turkey doo greatly astonishe the Estates assembled at Bruxelles, for out of Fraunce newes are comme that the peace is ether made there or elles that it wyll be concluded with the furst. The Count of Egmonde's eldest sonne hath sent thes newes. The bruite hath bene, and is great, that the Counte's sonne brought thes newes him self, with declaration made to the Estates that the ruyters and Hugonottes mynde is to set uppon the Lowe-Countries. I have bene curious to knowe whether the Counte's of Egmond his sonne be arryved. He camme not to the Court, but is thought to be at his howse at Gatsbeck beyonde Bruxelles three miles. I thincke Your Honour hath understoode how that, two monnethes past, the Kinge restoared Egmonde's children to ther father's landes, reservinge unto him selfe all the titles and one of the cheafe lordshippes which appertayned unto the last Count. Besides he restoared the landes uppon this condition that they should equally and evenly be devyded emongst the children, to th'intent (as I gesse) that not one of them might herafter be great or able to revenge injuries past. Touching the

Turcke his preparation, I have sent many letters written out of Italye, all affirminge that the Turcke, for a certenty, is in great redines to goo to the seas, and that he myndeth to assaile rather Sicilie then Malta. Don Jan d'Austriche was a travalinge towardes Millayne, or, as somme others wryte, to Genua, to appease with his authoritie the troubles there; but he was called backe by letters of the Great-Master of Malta, who advertised him that it was most certayne that the Tureke would shortly take the seas and sayle towardes Malta or Sicilie, and therefore requested him to retourne to his charge and to provyde for as many galleys as he possibly coulde to withstande the Turekes. Monsieur de Champigny hath bene moche looked for, and this daye wilbe at Bruxelles. I shall not doo amysse to advertise Your Honour of the opinion the cheafest here have of Her Majestie. They all saye that Her Majestie doth judge that it is better for her to prolonge this warre then to procure a peace, and therefore doth ayde the rebells (so they terme the Hollanders and Zelanders) with souldiers and artillery. The Spanyardes saye the same here; and therfor they burst out with threatenings, as though they would be eaven with the realme of Englande as soone as they have made an ende here. The Admirall Xanetio d'Avila sent forth of late the newe galley here made with other shippes and flutes, prepared warlicke, towardes Ziricksea, but all are returned yesterday to Andwarpe, yet, shortly shalle be sent agayne towardes Duveland and Scowen. I advertised Your Honour, the 25 of marche, that letters were come hether, the daye before, how that the Guese had taken Amelande, sence which tyme the bruite is here that they have many shippes nighe Ziricksea ilande, but I heare no great confirmation of thes bruites by any particularities donne, which is the cause I partly doubt of thes newes. Anthony Standon, who, sence the defeate of Ganlice nighe Cambresie, hath remayned in this country, is now bannysshed the country by the Kinge's ordre, for havinge had over great familiaritye with Madame de Blomberch, mother to Don Jan de Austria. It was thought they were maryed together. Heis likewise deprived of his stepende, which he had by letters patent from the Kinge of Spayne, which camme to 100<sup>li</sup> yearly. He is returned into Fraunce, where I thincke he shall not finde the like entretaynement he had here, for he was very well thought of here of the best of the country. Monsieur Boschott, who, the last yere, was ambassadour for the Commandador in Englande, was sent by the Commandador his ordre into Germanie, two dayes before he dyed, who, understandinge this death of the Commandador, returned agayne into the Estates to have his commissions confirmed by them, which beinge accordingly donne, he is departed towardes the Busshoppes of Collen and Trier. I understande his cheafe commission is to entreate with them touchinge the leavinge of ruyters to serve the Kinge in the frontyres and to borowe monney for the Kinge. They affirme at the Court that the Count of La Marche, otherwyse called Lume, is reconciliated unto the Kinge, and that he hath his pardon graunted him; he was of late

at Liege. The Erle of Westmorelande was of late at Lovain with M<sup>r</sup> Harvey; he hath otherwyse his aboade at Cambray and keepeth not past one man and one boye. Towching the dissensions of Genua, they are thought to be appeased, and that the conditions were to be published about th'ende of marche. As concerninge Pollande, they writé out of Germany that Prussia, Livonia and Lituania doo keape their townes for th'Emperour, and that Albertus Lasky, with the rest of the Pollonians, which camme to Vienna to declare the Emperours election, doo not cease to move the Emperour and to encourage him to make an expedition towards Pollande. Ther was one of the chefest of the other faction taken of late and sent unto th'Emperour; but I understande here of the Palatine Dzialinsky, whome I knewe in Fraunce, that the most part of warryers in Pollande doo stande with the Vaywode, whome he thincketh about this tyme to be crowned. He thincketh that th'Emperour dothe despayre of compassinge Pollande, for that the Turcke will breake peace with him, if he attempt any thinge against the Vaywode. In the meane while, the Emperour most take hede to have suche a neighbour unto Hungarie as he wilbe, if he obtayne Pollande, for that he clameth a title unto the crowne of Hungarie. This Vaywode is infected with the Arian's heresie. It wilbe knowen shortly what the Emperour meaneth to doo. Thus I leave to trouble Your Honnour, desiringe the Allmightie to blesse your affayres and to give a prosperous successe unto all your endeavours.

From Andwarpe, in hast, the first of aprill 1576.

The passeport is comme from the Court for the departure of the shippes of the Adventurers: wherfore to morrow I meane to depart with them towards Flusshinge. If in the meane while any thinge happen woorthie the writinge, I will not fayle to advertis Your Honnour of it.

(Record office, Cal., n° 716.)

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MMMCXXIX.

*Lord Burleigh à William Herle.*

(3 AVRIL 1576.)

Sur les difficultés secrètes qui ont fait échouer la mission de Paul Buys. — La paix n'est pas conclue en France.

William Herle, I have herwith wrytten with myn own hand to M<sup>r</sup> Smyth, accordyng [to] your request, wher uppon lett me know what succedeth, I wish you not to fede your humor with vayne esperances.

I am glad that Pawle Buiss and his colleedges ar departed with lyklood of spedy arryvall. Of his good opinion of me towards ther commen causes, he shall not be deceived. In dede ther have happened hynderors, but he and you have not known the whole truth therin. The conning of wordlynges is greatest in hydyng ther passadges with contrary overt speches, but the best tryall of all men is the towchston of ther honest lyves, for it is impossible to gather figges from thornes. Take you hede that you do not in any conference of wrytyng or speche enter into censure of any of us all, namely to note any hynderors of good causes, for we can better suffer our dedes to take effectes than to be censured.

Your brother Laurence Thonson hath of long tyme sollicitated me for his releff, but he ought first to tell how I am hable to do it, and than suerly in thynges mete for hym I will redely do hym good. He pretendeth more knolledg in mynt matters than any man that I can heare will affirm to me. And truly in some thynges of his wrytyng wherein he seketh to inform me, if I be not allredy in an error, he wold bryng me into a gret on, and I thynk myself not ignorant in the contemplation of the grctest misteryes of his faculty, wherin suerly his master M<sup>r</sup> Stanly professed for gayne a gross error. You will fynd that Paule Buiss was deceived with opinion *pacis conclusæ in Galliis*.

(Record office, Dom. papers, vol. 103, n<sup>o</sup> 24.)

MMMCXXX.

*William Villers à lord Burleigh.*

(MIDDELBORG, 26 MARS ET 5 AVRIL 1576.)

Procès à Middelbourg. — Vif regret de ne pas avoir vu la reine accepter les propositions qui lui ont été faites. — Il faut redouter les succès des Français, plus encore ceux des Espagnols. — Nouvelles diverses de Zélande.

Right honorable, My dutie remembred, etc. Maye it please Your Honour to be advertised your lettre unto the Admirale here in my behalfe, for the restitution of my goodes lost in the *Christ*, I have delivered, whoe, having red the same, saide that ther was all redie satisfaction made for the saide shipp and goodes. To whome I aunswered that for my part I never received anie thinge, neither anie man for mee to my knowledge. Than he called for one Maudmaker, the treasurer of the Zelande, and asked hym

whether satisfaction wer not made for the *Christ*: whoe answered, that as for the shipp and her freight, they wer at apoint, but the goodes was not yet agred for: wheruppon he delivered Your Honnors letre to the saide Maudemaker and willed mee to make my request unto the Courte of the Admiraltie of Fluxshinge, and I showlde be herd: which I have done, and ame growen to a good poinet with them for my summe, either to take their bill for three monethes or els to have my allowance in licens for the transporting of salte owt of Englande into the Lowe-Cuntries, for that, notwithstanding the great bowties they have had within this twee monethes to the vallewe of an hundred and seventy thousand pound sterling by meanes of the great preparation that is made to remove the ennemie from Serrickseas and painge of marriners and souldiers, that they are still bare of monie, wherefore I ame glade to make what ende I cane, living still in hope I shall recover my owne in the ende. Thus much, Right honorable, I thought it my duetie to advertis you of, for that I doe knowe your letre did staunde mee in verie good steade, giving Your Honor most umble thancks for the same. And, for farther intelligence, it may please Your Honnore to understaunde it ys no smalle greffe unto mee to here in this cuntrie that which I doe heare, considering the offers that hath bene made by His Excellence and the States of the Countries to Her Majestie and to be utterlie reffused, I cannot thincke but ther are some great hinderers in the same, wherin they may have a good meaninge, but I beseeche the Allmightie God to open their eyes and to turne their hearts, that theie maye rather be helpers and settlers forward of so noble and worthie a dede then to be the hinderars thereof. Theare never cowlde have happenned the like savetie to ower most worthie quene and cuntrie, as for Her Majestie to have such a government offerred unto her, the which without comparizon are the strongest and of the greatest consequence, that bee in the worlde. God preserve and kepe Her Majestie from the mallice of her ennemies and owers, and graunte that shee maye longe rayne over us; and men, yff it be true that Her Majestie hath utterlie reffused the offre, as it ys here saide, shee hath undowtedlic, it will fall into the government of the Frenche er it be vj monethes. It is of a verie truethe that ther is at this present with the Prince sertein commissioners owt of France for the same; and it is saide thear shall come x thowsande moen from thence, yff Her Majestic doe reffuse the same; and, for the good will of the Frenche towards us, wee doe well knowe they doe make accompt of us to be their auncient enemies, and, iff the kinges of England in tymes past did fynde yt was not for the savetie of our realme to have suche a neighbour as Callais was before yt was taken by Kinge Edwarde the Thirde, howe muche more are wee to consider of these cuntries and the consequence of them every waye and what will followe, yff the Frenche maye once possease them. And on the other side, yff the Spaignarde showlde prevaille therin accordinge to his dezier, as I praye God that I doe not live to see that daye. Unhappie maye we than thincke owreselves to



be, and in worse casse than yf the Frenche have it; for the settlid hatred of the Spaignard doth so abounde in their hartes towards us that they do not let to utter their myndes in suche spechis to them at Serrickeseas against Her Majestie that no good subject with a patient mynde cane abide the reporte thereof. I praye God confounde them and their evill inventions. I ame not all together owt of hope but that Her Majestie will be a means that the ennemie maye be stayed from his purpose. The provizion that the Prince hathe made for the succors of Serrickeseas is great : God graunt hym good succes! They doe stave onelie for winde and weather, which I pray God send them shortlie ! It ys saide here the Prince hathe a yonge sonn : God blesse him!

Kept here ye v<sup>th</sup> of aprill in Flusshinge. Yesterdaye here arrived an yngleshe cray from Ipswicke, whoo met with xvj saill of ships that came from Dunkereke and were bounde to Bruarshaven, wherin was viij<sup>o</sup> Spainiards soldiers, and uppon the newes so sone as the tyde dyd serve, here went from hence to Camffier xij saile of the smallest men of war, supposing to incounter with them before they sholde come to Bruarshaven; but this daye we doe here they came to late, for they wer entred in before they came, wherebie it will turne this cuntrie and Holland to great troble. They cannot nowe passe into Holland from thence, but it must be by a convoye. It ys saide here there is vj<sup>o</sup> English men arrived within this monneth in Holland. I wolde it wer or that it maye be verie shortlie vj thousande, or ells I wolde wishe those which be allredie here to be called home agayne: ells they will be but as a praye to the Spaignard or the Frenche, for undowbtelie the Prince must either receive succours from the Frenche, or ells be overcome by his enemies, yff Her Majestie doe not even shortlie assist him with a greate force. Here is arrived Sir Thomas Cotton in the *Achates*, one of Her Majesty's shippes, to conduct a marchants daughter of Antwerp into Engelond, whoe with M<sup>r</sup> John Cobham and divers others was taken hether. I praye God that Giraldie whoe shall marie the saide gentillwoman, maye be founde as good a member and as well a willer to Her Majestie and the State of the realme, as Her Majestie by her suffraunce this waie and others ys contented to please him. This am I bolde to signifie unto Your Honnor some fact of the state of suche matters as here riseth, beseeching Your Honnor to pardon mee of my boldnes, and for this time I doe commit Your Honor to ye governaunce of the Almightye God.

Skribled by Your Honnors lovinge dutifull proved well willer as I am bownde.

(*British Museum, Lansdowne, 22, n° 75.*)

MMMCXXXI.

*John Cobham à lord Burleigh.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 6 AVRIL 1576.)

Violences exercées contre divers marchands en Zélande. — Situation désastreuse des assiégés de Zierickzee.

My humbell dewty remembered to Youer good Lordshipp, You shall understand, that M<sup>r</sup> Harbertt returned out of Holland from the Prynce with this ansswer the xxix<sup>th</sup> day of marche. I hoped his ansswer had byne suche as we shuld have had the lady with all her company and baggadage. It is now otherwyse, for the Admyrall Bows-sott, as he sayethe, by order from the Prynce hathe sent Julio Gerarde's secrettary to the Rammykyns to pryson, and there he is so secretly kepte as no man can speke with him. Allso the have layed in the common pryson one George Pink and Sipione Benamontes, he is nephew to Assarbo the itallian marchant in London, and one Anthonio Mendes and Francys.... Thess fyve be in pryson, and thre of them are put into a dongion, where the have nether bedding, fyer, nor no other meate but bred and water, besydes the horribbell threatnings of losse of there lives. M. Harbertt and I have earnestly dealte with the Admyrall and Governor for them, but as yeat we can fynd no favor. The cause of there torment is by cause they will not agre to ransome. The demand of Georgio Pink is but 5000 frenche crownes, of Sipione Benamontes 6000, so as the poor men can not tell what to do ; but, as we may, we do comfortt them by secrett meanes, for we are commanded by the Admyrall and the Governor not to come at them. It greveth me muche to se chrystian peopell so used, and it greveth me more that the letters of ouer good Quene and mystres be of no more eastimation with this peopell, who only live by the foode that commethe out of England and by the great favor wyche they receave of Her Mageste. My humbell request to Youer good Lordshipp is that yow wilbe a meane to Her Mageste for the fre deliveray of the poore men, who are like to suffer great myserye and torment, if Her Mageste extend not her gracios favor towards them. Youer Lordshipp shall understand that the good lady with the rest of her company and her stuff and baggadage is delivered, but they have opened everye chest and trunke, and ded deliver them to the ladys one handes, but this day being the 4<sup>th</sup> day of aprill they have taken away a chest with xiiij<sup>n</sup> hole peces of vellvett and fortye pare of sillk netherstockes.

The lady thinkethe her sellf muche bound to Her Mageste, and for that Her Mageste

hathe sent Thomas Cottonne with one of her shipps for her, so as I meane, God willing, to come home with the next wynd that God will send.

Here is one Phillips, Englisheman, apprehended of home : it is sayed that he shuld betray Flusshing and sett there shipps a fyer; he is in pryson at the Rammykyns.

Ziriacksea as yeat is not vytayled; they tarry only for there flote of shipps out of Holland, wyche, if the wynd would turne, be redde to come.

It was thowght that Amsterdam would have surrendered them sellfs to the Prynee. He sent thether xij ensingnientes of foote men, but they came iij owyers to late. They shuld have come at two to the clocke of the morning to the towne, and the came at vj of the clock, so as all was dysscovered, and returned home agayne.

This day, the Admyrall and the Governor of Zeland are gone with all there force the can make, to incounter with xxij sayeles of shippes, wyche be gonne to Bruershaven in Zyriacksea and now be safly arryved there.

Thess ships came from Dunckkerk. They have landed 1200 solldyers there with munition and vytayle.

The report goethe that there is but a monethes vytayle in Zyriacksea towne; the Spanyardes have so chayned howllkes together as hardly anny shipps can gett in.

If the towne of Zyriacksea be not shortly relefeed, it willbe the King of Spayne's agayne.

This day, being the v<sup>th</sup> of apryll, the Admyrall hathe given commandement that we shall not departe till he came back agayne from Zyriacksea. He is gone with 50 sayle of shipps to fyght with the spanshe shipps, wyche be gonne to Bruersshaven.

I most humbly desyer Your good Lordshipp to be earnest with Her Mageste for the deliveray of the poore men. We have great hinderance by ouer staying, for the wynd is veray fayer. I feare, if there commyssioners come home, my lady and all shallbe stayed.

They have stayed iiij<sup>er</sup> shippes, wyche come from Andwerp. The reportt is, for that there is iiij<sup>er</sup> of there shippes stayed in the weast conteray, they will stay them. Surly, if they be suffered to have this liberte of spowling, the will offend all Chrystendome.

Thus wysshing Your good Lordshipp mucche encrease of healte and honor, I commend yow to God.

From Mydellburrowgh, the v<sup>th</sup> day of apryll 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 725.)

MMMCXXXII.

*Robert Alexandre au comte de Leicester.*

(ANVERS, 6 AVRIL 1576.)

Champagney n'a pu rester à Anvers. — Soldats mutinés. — On ne sait encore qui sera chargé du gouvernement des Pays-Bas. — Chevaux à acheter en Flandre pour la reine.

Right honorabell and my onely good Lorde, My doety commandes to let Your Honor knowe of suche nueve as we have here. At Shampynes commynge into Inge-lande, the towne of Andwerpe wase put in governamente to one Counte Hannybal, who had the rule here in Shampines habsence. When Shampyne wase arryved, he thoughte to have commendement to have taken the charges, whose he afore had; but the Cownte Hannyball sente him worde not to com here, for he wolde govern the towne till he were commanded the to . . . by him, that shal be the nexte governor who so war m . . . . . Shampyne on this altered his determynasyon and wente to Brusseles, where all the State of this countri nowe is. There are certayne horsmen, Ittallyanes, Spaniardes and Walons, to the numbar of fyve hundered, whiche mutened and put themselves in harmes for wante of there pay, and came to Brusseles and wolde have entered the towne; but they were kepte oute, whiche made them retyre into the country: they nowe spoyle and do greate harme. They say here a[ll] the Spaniardes that were in Brussiles, are put out of the to[wn] by consente of the whole State. Sum of them came hether at Andwarpe, but they coulde not be suffered to com in the towne. It is not yet knowne here who shall be governor: sum . . . the Duchese of Parma, som Doon John, and othre sum the Cardynal Gravell; sum saye the Kinge wyll com hether himself; but it anny sertainty is not knowen. There wase it voyced that the Kinge wase deade, but nowe the say it is otherwyes. There were iiij gallis commyng oute of I . . . to goo into Itally, having in them fowar hundered . . . . . ducates, and, as they lay at anker undar a great rocke . . . . , roese a greate tempest which brocke the rocke so that it fell on the gallis and suncke them all. There are . . . come oute of Italy hether, whiche saye that the Turke dothe make greate preparasyon and myndeathe to come into sum partes of Itally this summar. Seriese is in . . . distrese: if it not be shortly vitted, it wyll be lost, as they say here. The leape yeare wythe my cominge d . . . from the Courte made me come shorte of Gante fare it . . . a sennyghte sonar then it was wonte to be. I did not thinck . . . my comming hethere, horsis had bene so harde to cor . . . or so deare: I shall have moche adoo to finde cochese horsis for His Majestis and spesially ryde.

I muste be forced to ride up and downe in the countrey to fynde them, whiche wyll be bothe travelsom and chargabell and not wytheoute daingere. I wyll do my indevar to get the beste I can, the machinge of them wyll be the worste thyng. I leave to trobell Your Honnor, desieringe the Allmighty God evar to preserve your wythe inkrease of his b . . . . .

From Andwarpe, this vi of april.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. V, n° 89.*)

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MMMCXXXIII.

*Davison à Walsingham.*

(BRUXELLES, 13 AVRIL 1576.)

Lenteur de la négociation. — Plusieurs membres du Conseil semblent ne pas désirer la paix. — Un courrier a été envoyé au roi d'Espagne, un autre au prince d'Orange. — On manque d'argent pour payer les troupes. — Plaintes de plusieurs Anglais qui sont en prison à Anvers.

Sir, By that I have written touchinge my negociation Your Honour may se I can receive no verie spedie aunswere, which I can not but in part ascribe to ther divers humors here. Barlemont, Dassonvile, Viglius, Rhodas, Bursehot and one or two more earnest Spanyardes make no great hast to further a peace, as men that have and do make ther gayne by fysshinge in this trubled waters. But the Secretary Battye and others of good note do assure me that the hole countrie and States els in generale were never more desirous to embrace the same. What appearaunce ther is of doinge good therin I hope in my next to be able more fullye and perticulerlye to satisfie Your Honour. The present gouvernemente here, by order frome the Kinge (the copie of whose late letters to that effect I send Your Honour), restethe amongst the States untill he may send a governore of his blood, which some ymagine shalbe the Duchesse of Parma agayne, others say Don Jan d'Austria, and some the yonge Prince of Spayne, but no resolution yet knowen here. In the meane tyme, they governe together verie wiselye and with more dispatche of matters in a day nowe then in ten while the Com-mandor lived. They publysshed here on sonday last an old placcart that all suche as were not Brabbanders borne, etc., bearinge office within the said duchie, should geve over ther charge by a day (the copie wherof I lykewise send Your Honour), wherupon

here have bene divers Spaynyardes and others at the Court to make sute to the contrarye, but to little purpose. Monsieur d'Hierves, gouvernour of Holland, Zeland, etc., is lately gone downe done to his charge. He hathe bene an earnest petitioner here to the States for mony to discharge the paies of the souldiers within his governmente, to whom they have ordeayned 100,000 floryns, and therof presentlye furnisht 50,000 unto him, to be distributed amonge them in Holland and Utreight and other places till further order may be taken. But that little summe is doubted will little satisfie, consideringe the great tyme past that they have bene unpaed, being dew to some of them three yeres, to some two yeres, and to him that is last behind xxj monethes wages. Of whome ther be of Base-Allmaynes, Highe-Almaynes, Wallones and Spanyardes, by estimat, about 15,000, besides 560 mariners appoynted to 24 shippes, to eache of which is ordained j monethes pay and 2 monethes victualles, wheras is dew unto them for xxj monethes at the least. They have bene occupied in counsell a day or two about the takinge order for mony to pay the Almaynes that lye in garisons and ar not employed in Holland etc., whom they meane, as unprofitable men, to dismisse home, and to ease the Kinge of that charge. It is estemed they ar in number three or four thowsand men. The Duke of Arschot came into the comon house of States to pray ther assentes for mony to the mayntenance of a certayne number of soldiers for the warres, as for 8,000 in Zealande, 11,000 in Holland, and for the pay of the cavalarie, which ar about 3,000, to th'end they might be the better able and willinge to serve the Kinge. Here hathe sence my beinge at the Court a post bene dispatched, as I here, to the Prince, and an other to the Kinge, but wheraboutes I cane not yet certaynlye learne <sup>1</sup>.

Here is sudden newes come that certayne companies of the Germaines entered this yere into Fraunce ar nowe marchinge downe towards the frontires, which makethe them here afraid of some daungerous employmentes : the truthe wherof I shalbe more able at more lengthe to advertise Your Honour. Certen Englishe men comminge to serve the Prince of Auringe, to the number of 115, were latelye taken about Brewers-

<sup>1</sup> Morillon écrivait à Granvelle le 16 avril 1576 :

L'agent qu'est venu d'Angleterre, propose abstinence d'armes et que l'on rattaiche la négociation de Breda. La Royne at fait paier comptant tous les François qu'estoient en Hollande et en Zélande de tout ce que leur estoit deubt, et les en at fait sortir, sans que auleun y soit demoré.

Mons<sup>r</sup> de Champaigney at cejourd'huy fort bien traicté l'agent d'Angleterre, et y furent MM<sup>rs</sup> le Duc d'Arshot, Conte de Berlaymont, d'Everstein, M<sup>r</sup> de Rassenghien, le nouveau Président, Trésorier Schetz, Chancelier de Brabant, Alexandre Gonzaga, prévost Foneh, de Bave, de sorte qu'ils furent xvj ou xviii.

Nos seigneurs sont après pour licentier les Allemands et chevaux-légers, et voudroient devant remectre sus les bandes d'ordonnance, affin de n'estre après surprins; mais ils ont peu de moiens.

(Pior, *Correspondance de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 86.)

Haven by the spanishe flecte that departed on monday was . . . . . from Donkerke, being about 56 sayle. The most part of thes men ar allredie committed to the gallies, and the rest prisoners at Andwarpe to be shortly dispatched with no lesse rigore then th'others. The powr men that yet be in prison, have made ther supplication to the marchantes of th'Englishe companye at Andwarpe, and they have sent the same unto me <sup>1</sup> with speciall intreatie to do somewhat for theme, which I darre not take upon me without warraunt. Yf Your Honour thinke it convenient that I should travale for them, gevinge me knowledg of your pleasure, I will do the best I can, and in the meanwhile do what I may with some particuler men of the Counsell here, as of my selfe, to stay them. For Venner's cause I have yet found no commoditie to move it. Here be divers others in the same state, which fynd verie slow justice; the case is lamentable to se. M<sup>r</sup> Cotton, who hathe ben here ever sence my comminge, hathe lately renewed and amplefied his commission with which he is shortly to go abroad. I here verie ill of his unnaturall dealinge with his owne nation, of whom he hathe taken and spoyled divers.

Out of Italye here is newes that the Jenevoys ar accorded and that the Turkes cominge amonge them this yere is not feared by reason of the great mortalitie and darthe of victualls that regnethe in his countries. And this, in some, is as muche as dothe occurre worthy advise, wherwith after remembraunce of my humble dewtie and prayer to God for Your Honour's longe, happie and honorable lyfe, I most humbly take my leave of you.

At Bruxells, the 13 of aprill 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 733.)

<sup>1</sup> In most lamentable wise complaininge shewethe unto Your Worshippes your powre countriemen the prisoners now remayninge within this cittie, that, wheras of late it chaunced that your said powre supplimentes, travelinge upon the seas to seke for enterteaynment and serve in forren countries wher it might please God best to provide for us, were unloked for assaulted and taken by the spaynyshe navie, who, without respect of mereye, not beinge by us resisted, did not onlye ther take spoyle of such goodes and apperrell as was in the shippe to the valewe of ij hundred poundes, but also did owst violentlye, wound and mayme divers of our company, and carried us all as prisoners with them, beinge then in nomber about vj score persones, and have scattered us in gallies at ther pleasures, so that ther is now remayninge of us to the nomber of lv persons in captivitie, contrarie to all equite and lawe, not knowinge the cause why we should be so used, for as muche as we never yet served agaynst the King, or received any penny of pay of any person, but being destitute of servis, were as redie to serve the King as any other, may it therfor, etc.

Davison ajoute : The names of theis men I cannot yet come by in particuler : some of them are sayd to be gentlemen of good frendes. (*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 750.)

MMMCXXXIV.

*Réponse du Conseil d'État à Davison.*

(BRUXELLES, 16 AVRIL 1576.)

Ils ne peuvent prendre aucune résolution sur les propositions de la reine d'Angleterre avant de connaître les intentions du roi.

*Response de messeigneurs du Conseil d'Etat commis par le Roy au gouvernement général des Pays-Bas à ce que leur a esté proposé de la part de la Sérénissime Royne d'Angleterre par le s<sup>r</sup> Guillaume Davison, gentilhomme de sa maison, le xj<sup>e</sup> jour d'avril 1576.*

Mesdicts seigneurs du Conseil d'Etat, ayants entendu ce que de la part de la dite dame Royne ledit Guillaume Davison leur a exposé, ne peuvent laisser de la remercier, comme remercient grandement, de la bonne affection et volonté qu'elle monstre vouloir tenir à l'entretenement de bonne amitié avec Sa Majesté Catholique et des bons offices qu'elle diet vouloir faire pour reconcilier les troubles de ces dicts pays de par deçà, pour les faire quites de ceste guerre civile. Néantmoins, comme feu monseigneur le Grand-Commandeur de Castille, en son vivant gouverneur-général de ces dicts pays, avoit adverti Sa Majesté de tout ce qui s'estoit traicté en la communication de Breda et qu'il avoit diet ausdicts seigneurs du Conseil d'Etat n'avoir encores receu responce finale de Sadite Majesté, trop bien qu'icelle par deux fois a escript d'avoir prins une résolution sur les moyens des remèdes de la pacification générale des dits troubles pardeçà, qu'elle a promis d'envoyer par les Marquis de Havrech et Conseillier Hopperus, ce que l'on est attendant passé quelque temps, et croyent lesdicts seigneurs que sans le décès dudict Commandeur survenu fussent jà venus, ils n'y peuvent rien ordonner, ains dépend le tout de ce que Sa Majesté sera servie en ordonner, à laquelle ne faudront incontinent représenter le tout, tant sur la reprinse de la négociation de Breda que sur la surcéance des armes, dont en brief s'attend responce, joint que le S<sup>r</sup> de Champagney les avoit préadverti, dès lors qu'il estoit en Angleterre, que la dite dame Royne luy avoit déclaré le désir qu'elle avoit d'accommoder les affaires par une pacification, comme aussy il avoit rapporté à son retour, ce que les dits seigneurs du Conseil ont escript à Sadite Majesté, laquelle a, à diverses fois, adverti qu'elle veut traicter ses subjects de Hollande et Zélande en toute douceur, clémence et bénignité : ce que leur fait croire qu'ils auront brièvement responce, laquelle entendue, ne faul-



dront le tout faire sçavoir à la dite Sérénissime Roïne d'Angleterre, avecq laquelle ils ne faudront de tenir toute bonne correspondance au nom dudict seigneur Roy et lui servir en ce que sera conjoint avec le service de Sa Majesté, suppliant la dite dame Roïne aussy vouloir, à toutes occasions, monstrier effectivement combien elle trouve mauvaises les actions de ceulx qui se sont séparés du service de Sa Majesté Catholique, leur souverain seigneur et prince naturel, conformément à ce que les traictés et droict de bonne voisinance l'obligent.

Faict à Bruxelles, le xvj<sup>e</sup> jour dudict mois d'avril 1576.

(*Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles, Nég. d'Angleterre*, Instructions, t. I, fol. 551 ;  
*British Museum, Galba, C. V*, n<sup>o</sup> 269. — Publié par M. Piot, *Correspondance de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 542.)

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MMMCXXXV.

*Instructions données à Robert Beale.*

(16 AVRIL 1576.)

Il se plaindra des outrages commis par les marins de Flessingue à l'égard de divers Anglais et notamment du comte d'Oxford. — Déclaration à faire pour obtenir le redressement de ces griefs.

*Instructions given by the lordes of Her Majestie's Privie Counsell to Mr Robert Beale, dispatched to the Prince of Orange, the xvj<sup>th</sup> of april 1576.*

You shall ymmediatly upon your arryvall at Flussing infourme your self by such english merchanntes as you shall fynd there, whether the shippes perteyning unto the Merchauntes Adventurers, lately stayd by them of Flussing, be set at libertye, or what hope there is of their releasement, or whether they meane to deteyne them, pretendinge to do the same in respect of certen shippes of theirs staid in the west partes of this realme, without the releasement of which shippes deteynid here, they will not set at libertie the said shippes apperteyning unto the Merchauntes Adventurers, and after full information had therof, in case you shall fynd at your arryvall the Merchauntes Adventurer's shippes released and departed from the porte of Flusshing, whereby they shall not appeare unto you to be within the dainger of their arrest, then shall you delyver unto the Prince, yf you shall fynd him in Zelland, or in his absence unto the

governors there, our message in such sorte as you receave the same signed by us. And to th'end that he or they maie the better consider of yt and geve the more credyt unto you, you shall shewe them yt, as also in case ether he or they shall requier, you shall delyver unto them a coppie therof <sup>1</sup>.

On th'other side, yf you shall fynd the said shippes not released, and yet that there is hope that they shalbe set at libertie, then shall you let him or them understand from us that Her Majestie fyndeth Her Honour so greatly wounded thorough the daily misusage of her subjectes and of such publick ministers as ~~are~~ sent hether from for-rein princes, but chiefelie thorough an outrage lately committed uppon the Earle of Oxford, that in case the said Prince or governors shall not serche out th'offendors, and see them most severely punished, as also such shippes set at libertie as have ben of late staid by them of Flussing, she shalbe forced to put in execution such remedyes for the redresse therof as she would be loth to do otherwies then forced of necessitie, wherin, though Her Majesty heretofore hath delayed to use such redresse as by th'injuries receavid by her subjectes to her great dishonour she hath ben justly provoked unto, you maie now assur both him and them from us that Her Majesty is fully resolvid no longer to indure to have her subjectes so misused.

<sup>1</sup> Burleigh écrivait, le même jour, à Walsingham :

I have perused all the letters and memorialls for Mr Beale concerning this voyadg into Zeland, and I do so well allow of the whole courses therin taken by My Lordes, as I do both with hart and hand sign them. And, as I wrote yesterday, I found it hard to make a good distynction betwixt angre and judgment for My Lordes of Oxforde's misusage, so suerly, whan I look into the universall barbarism of the Prince's forces of the Flushyngars, which ar only a rable of commen pyrates, or worss, and that mak no difference whom they outrage, I do mistrust of any good issue to the cause, though of itself it be to be favored. Yet, as it is sayd *bonam causam male agendo periisse*, I humbly thank all My Lordes for the regard of My Lord of Oxford, in whose person suerly Hir Majesty and the realme hath taken disgrace, and, if the Prince shall not yeld to hang some of the principall for such a robbery, I must saye howe, so ever Hir Majesty shall bend himself for the public cause, she ought in justyce otherwise to se it revenged. For, if justyce be denyed in such a notorious case, all lawes betwixt meare princes do warrant a procedyng otherwise to mak an example of avendg. And suerly, if Mr Beale shall spek with the Prince, he may do well to advise him to thynk that such an outrage as this is, cannot tak end without more offence to hym and his than may be the hangyng of v or vj such theves, as, if he war rid of an hundred of them, his cause wold prosper better, and his frendes wold increass, which if he shall by subterfuge in answer delaye, he will fele shall nether prosper, nor yet his frendes remayn obliged to hym as they have. You se my angre ledeth my judgment. And yet trusty I am not herto moved more for particular than for the publick.

I nede add nothyng to your wrytynges. Mr Beale is wise, and I pray hym, if my name be of any vallew, to use it to the Prince, as felyng my self in the person of the Erle of Oxford interested with this outrage, and so also expecting the rather some honorable amendes by justice in executyng of the pyrates. (*Record office, Cal., n° 758.*)

Lastly, in case you shall fynd the said Prince or governors to stand upon conditionall termes, as to have the said shippes here arrested first released, before he ether punish such as committed the said outrage against the said Earle, or set at libertie the shippes perteyning unto Her Majestie's subjectes, you shall then let them understand that they do to much forget them selves in standing upon such conditionall termes with a prince of Her Majestie's qualitie, and to whom they have ben so many wayes so much behoulding, and that, yf he or they could with sound judgement looke into their own case, they should then see that, yf they had to do ether ..... of meaner qualitie or to whom they weare lesse behoulding, that such a kind of conditionall dealing weare most injurious, for that, yf he or they did well consider that the arrest of their shippes here proceeded of soundry complayntes made unto Her Majestie and unto us, of divers spoyles and outrages susteyned by her said subjectes (the said Flussingers having caried in the space well nere of one moneth into Zeland thirty sayle perteyning unto her said subjectes), both he and they should then see that, as the cause of the arrest grew from them selves, so are they in reason first to make satisfaction; but, in that they have upon this collar stayd the shippes perteyning unto the Merchautes Adventurers, to whom by contract they have graunted free passage, they offer thereby double injurie. We shall neede the lesse to amplifie this matter, aswell for that you weare present at the debating of the same, as also for that you are chiefly to be guded by your owne discretion accordingly as you shall fynd the state of thinges there at your arryvall. Only this we thincke necessary that, untill such tyme as the Merchautes Adventurer's shippes shalbe released, you forbear to use threateninges, seeking only by perswasion to reduce them to yeld to the releasement: which being don, and the shippes departed, then shall you delyver the message unto the Prince or governors in such sorte as yt is by us signed.

(Record office, Cal., n° 757.)

MMMCXXXVI.

*Lord Burleigh, les comtes de Sussex et de Leicester et le Secrétaire  
Walsingham au prince d'Orange.*

(WESTMINSTER, 16 AVRIL 1576.)

Plainte très vive contre les actes de piraterie commis par les marins de Flessingue.

Monsieur, D'autant plus que nous vous avons monstré et porté d'honneur et d'affec-  
tion comme au prince que nous estimons pour l'avancement de la cause commune

de la Religion, d'autant plus aussy pour le regard particulier de vous-mesmes, il nous vient extrêmement à regret que la Majesté de la Royne nostre souveraine aye occasion si juste de se sentir tellement offensée qu'elle est à raison des continuelles pilleries et excès qui se commectent journellement par des gens de delà, qui s'avouent de vostre authorité, sur les subjects de Sa Majesté : lesquels aussy, combien que par cy-devant ils ayent esté bien fort bien affectionnés et comme voués au faict particulier de vous-mesmes, se resentent tellement néantmoins de ces injures et outrages que non-seulement ils se contentent de s'aliéner quasi totalement de vous et de vostre faict, mais aussi ne laissent d'en murmurer contre Sa Majesté et contre ceulx qui ont le maniment des affaires sous elle, en ce qu'il ne leur est pourveu de remède, mais plustost (comme ils disent) pour ce que tels outrages ne sont point vengés par Sa Majesté : chose, Monsieur, que vous pouvez bien de vous-mesmes peser de quelle conséquence ce seroit que les subjects de Sa Majesté continuassent en ce mescontentement et qui nous faict par ces présentes vous prier et quant et quant conseiller (pour le bien que vous pouvez espérer à vos affaires en particulier et pour l'affection que vous estes tenu de porter à Sa Majesté), que vueillez promptement pourveoir à ce que ces déportements tant outrageux ne se facent plus, et considérer que ces gens tant desbordés et comme barbares de Flussingue, continuants leurs immanités, ne peuvent que vous rendre odieux non-seulement à nous autres de par deçà, mais aussi à toutes nations de la chrestiennté, dont non-seulement la cause de la Religion viendroit en scandale et décadence, mais aussi vostre faict particulier seroit quasi entièrement gasté<sup>1</sup>. Il n'est pas question de vous en dire davantage : seulement nous vous prions derechef d'y penser et donner ordre promptement et à bon escient, et que cela puisse apparoistre tant à nous qui sommes de vos amis qu'aussi à tout le monde. Et à tant, Monsieur, prions Nostre-Seigneur Dieu vous conduire tellement en vos actions à ce que le tout soit à l'honneur et gloire de son nom.

Escript à Westmester, ce xv<sup>me</sup> d'avril 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 756.)

<sup>1</sup> Morillon écrivait le 50 avril 1576 :

L'on nous entretient en espoir de recouvrer Zirickzee, au plus tard sur la fin de ce mois qu'approche, et Mondragon s'en est faict fort. Mais je crains la faulte, estant par trop accoustumé de telles vantises, et qu'elle sera revictaillée. Aussi l'on dict qu'ils sont pourvus jusques la Sainct-Jehan. J'entends que ung jour le Président Sasbout demanda à Roda au Conseil d'Estat quel seroit son advis si Zirickzee estoit recouverte et si l'on debyroit continuer la guerre. Il dit que *ouy*. (*Pior, Corresp. de Granvelle*, t. VI, p. 65.)

## MMMCXXXVII.

*Davison à lord Burleigh.*

(BRUXELLES, 16 AVRIL 1576.)

Les Espagnols espèrent la prompte conquête de Zierickzee. — Paiements aux soldats. — Renvoi des troupes allemandes. — Subside accordé par les États. — Incertitude sur le choix du nouveau gouverneur.

My singuler goode Lorde, After so longe delay I am sorie I cannot advertise somewhat of more substaunce and satisfaction touching my negociation, but Your Lordship may easelie ges wheare the lacke resteth.

The countrie and States here in generall were never more enclined to a peace, but some particulers here be that do not much advaunce it, of whome I hope with two or three daies to give Your Lordship more particuler inteligence.

The Prince hath latelie attemptid to succour Ziriexse, but not without great slaughter and los on th'one side and other, repulsed : the circumstaunce wherof I cannot yet certainly advertise Your Lordship. It is thought here that the distres of that towne and the hope the Spanyardes have shortlie to posses the same, being, as it is saide, an impossible thing for the Prince to releve it, doth hold of this side from a peace as yet.

Monsieur d'Hierges, Gouvernor and Generall in Holland, is this day gone thitherward, carieng with him 50,000 florins, and having order for other 50,000 to be sent unto him by the xx<sup>th</sup> of this present, for the pay of the souldiers there and in other partes of his gouvernementes, a proportion that in likelyhod will litle satisfie them, having some three yeres, some two yeres, and the least xxj monethes wages due unto them.

All the High Dutch coronells are now suters there for mony to pay their souldiers, of whome such as lye in the townes hereaboutes and do nothing but spend mony and victuells, shalbe discharged, as I heare, and sent awaye.

The Countes de la Roche, de la Layne, d'Arenberg, de Meghen and others, that have charge on the frontiers, are latelie repaired to their gouvernementes, uppon advertisement of the French Kinge's bestowing of men in garrison in all his frontiere townes, of whome the generall speach of a peace doth make them jealous. Th'Estates of Brabant have latelie consented to give the Kinge 150,000 crownes, for renewing of a placart graunted at the Kinge's joyfull entrie that no stranger, not Brabanter borne, should beare any office in Brabant, etc. Wheareuppon divers are summoned to give

upp their offices by a day, on which begyning the poore people do hope a further restitution of their liberties . . . . . of this mony was the proportion disbursed to Monsieur d'Hierges, presentlie furnished.

The Duke of Arschot departith tomorrow to his house at Beamont to kepe his easter there, and divers other of the nobles to Machlin to the Jubile.

There was this laste week taken by the fleet of Donkerk, which are about 56 sayle, 125 Englishmen against Bruarshaven going to serve the Prince, of whome 50 or 60 are already comytted to the galleys, the rest, prisonners at Andwarp, are lik shortlie to follow them.

The brute who shalbe gouvernour here, ronnethe yet betwene Madame de Parma, the young French Quene Dowager, th'Emperour's sonne that is now in Spaine, and Don Jan d'Austria, but nothing yet certain here.

And thus loth to detayne Your Lordship any longer with so superficiall advise, beseching the same to stand my good lordship in covering the lackes of this my first service, I moste humblie take my leave, beseching God to give Your Honour a helthie, prosperous and longe life to the benefit of our countrie.

At Bruxells, the xvi<sup>th</sup> of aprill 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 754.)

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MMMCXXXVIII.

*Davison à Walsingham.*

(16 AVRIL 1576.)

Audience donnée par le Conseil d'État. — Discours de Davison. — Réponse de M. d'Assonleville. — Entretien avec le duc d'Arshot et Champagney. — Déclaration du Conseil d'État qui a envoyé un courrier à Philippe II et attend sa résolution.

Sir, If I have comitted an error in my delay hitherto to write unto Your Honor, I beseche ye same to impute it to ye lacke of sufficient subject, havinge till now received no aunswere here and consequentye not able sooner to advertise any thinge of substance touching my negociation; for, ye States occupied with other serious matters, I could have no audience till ye 12<sup>th</sup> of this monethe, coming hither the 7 of ye same, after I had staid a day at Antwarpe to informe myself there of some particularities; and, then beinge brought to ye Court by Mons<sup>r</sup> de Naves and other gentlemen, I found there

the Duke of Arschot, Counte Mansfelde, Counte de Barlamont, Pr. Sasbout, Dassonville, Rhoda, Champagne, Secr. Berte and one or two others, to whom, after som mutual offices of curtesie, havinge made Her Highnes verie hartie commendations and delivered my letters of credence, I discoursed at some lengthe, and in the best termes I could, the causes and circumstances of Her Majesties sendinge this lest sommer, fyrst of M<sup>r</sup> Cobham into Spayne unto ye King her good brother, and afterwards of M<sup>r</sup> Corbet and M<sup>r</sup> Hastings into thes Low-Countries, th'one to ye Comandador and th'other to ye Prince of Auringe, all in hope and intention to have done that good in procuringe a reconciliation between the Kinge and his subjects now aliened from him, that hathe not hitherto succeeded, in the handlinge whereof as nere as I might, I left out no thinge pertinent to my charge and necessarie to ye better settinge forthe of Her Majestie's honourable meaning and procedinge. And so, descendinge at lengthe to speake of ye earnest travale, which Her Highnes and her Counsell did take with ye deputies frome the Prince and States of Holland, being now latelie in England, to procure ther abstinence frome foren practises and succours untill she might have done some further good office in mediation of a surcease of armes, etc., I told them Her Majestie sould do so litle good in that behalfe, fynding them as it were utterlie hoples of suche a composition as should stand with ther surties, as Her Highnes, conceavinge an appearaunce of some practice still in hand with Fraunce, a thinge the rather to be feared, consideringe ye liklyhood of a present peace ther, and fearinge the dangerous successe that may happen of thes matters to ye hazard of this State and her owne disadvantage (in respect yt ye perill could not but reache unto her selfe) unless thinges were ye better and more providentlye handled, and knowinge withall how mucche everie of them should in reason and dewtie be towched with ye present lamentable state of ther countrie, and desirous to se a perfect union and peace established in the same, wherunto Her Majesty could see no meane so apt for the same as a present surcease of armes. Therefore I said Her Highness, of continuall meare good will towardes them and ther State, had nowe last of all sent me in ye place of a more sufficient to perswade and require them in Her Majestie's behalfe, not onlye (laying aside all partialities and loking with a single eye into ye comon necessite) to yeld and graunt an abstinence of armes, but also to do whatsoever els should stand with their dewtie in appeasinge of theis ther inward troubles and settling of a firme and happie quiet amongst them, which I told them was in somme that I had presentlye to open unto them frome Her Majestie and wherunto I praied ther absolute and spedie aunswere; and, so pawsing a while to here what would be said to that I had proponed, Mons<sup>r</sup> Dassonville, beinge required by ye rest of ye Lordes to speake, said that they, understanding th'effect and end of Her Majesty's present ambassade and perceavinge therbye the honorable affection my Sovereynne beare unto ye Kinge ther master, to theis his coun-

tries and them as subjects and members therof, could not but verie thankfullye accept and interpret of the same. And, bycause ye matter was of good consequence, they thought it good to advise therof and accordinglye to geve me such aunswere as should apperteigne, which was all that for that tyme I could get of them. And, so risinge frome the boord, I was a little interteigned in talke by ye Duke of Arschot, to whom I tooke occasion to say somewhat in particular of the hope Her Majestie conceived of his redie inclinacion to advaunce and sett forward a matter so agreeable to God and glorie the servise of the King and weale of ther countrie: who mad me aunswere that, as he was tied in nature and dewtie to do no lesse, so Her Majestie might be well assured for his owne parte in this occasion leave nothinge undone that might stand with th'one and other, and after some other little speache with him and Mons<sup>r</sup> Champaigny, whom I lykewise in Her Majestie's name put in mynd of his promisse, tooke my leave. In the efternone, Dassonville came unto me in ye name of the rest of the lords, demandinge of me whether I had any other particularities concerninge this matter to open and deliver them. To whom I aunswere no other then that I had before delivered unto my lords, which was to procure an abstinence of armes, takinge upon me to knowe that Her Majestie, findinge them inclyned to satisfie her in this, would not lett to procede to any other good office she might do, towards th'advancement of a firme peace amonge them. And so, he fallinge into longe discourse of thes troubles, and last of all into protestation of his desire to see them happelye ended, I prayed him to put his hand to ye furtheringe of this good occasion and meane therof, and besides earnestlye requested him to sett forward what he might a spedie aunswere and resolution, that I might have somewhat certen to signific unto Her Majestie in that behalfe, bothe which he promised, and so departed. Since, beinge put in daylye hope of satisfaction I could get nothinge till this afternone. And then, understandinge frome my lords that I should have audience, repayred unto ye Court, wher Mons<sup>r</sup> Dassonvill agayne, beinge requested by ye rest of the lords to declare ther aunswere, said unto me that the lords, havinge considered of myne acerture frome Her Majestie, coud not but fyrst render in the behalfe of the King ther master dew thanks and in ther owne particulers an offerre of ther lawfull service and dewties for the same, aeknowledginge this her honorable maner of dealinge to proceed of mere good affection to her said good brother the King ther master and the weale of theis his countries with which, as ye crowne of England had longe and many yeres bene linked in speciall amitie, so they hoped by mutuall good offices and correspondence it should still be norished and interteigned, with divers other circumstances to yt effect. But, as towchinge Her Majesties motion for a surcease of armes, which they understoode to be the matter I had commission to treat for, it was so that, albeit they had redie dispositions as well in Her Majestie's respect as for ye quiet of their countrie therin to satisfie her, yet was it a thinge that lay not in them to do without



absolut commission from His Majestic, which they utterly denied to have, and therefore could therein make no other present aunswere to Her Highnes then that they had alredie sent an expresse messenger into Spayne to importe the matter unto ye King ther master, whose resolucion they attended and shortly loked for in yt behalfe, which receaved they would comunycate with Her Highnes. In ye meanetye, they besought Her Majestic not to impute it to any lacke in them that she had not absolute and present satisfaction in this her good motion : which was in substance the aunswere I receaved. Wherunto I tooke occasion to referre that Her Majestic, perswadinge her selfe that ye King ther master, havinge upon so great trust committed the governement into ther hands, had withall geven them authoritie sufficient to treat and conclud in theses cases what they should fynd agreeable to his service and ye good of his countries, could not hold herselfe satisfied with this aunsweres, the rather knowinge how muche the King himselfe was affected to peace and quiet ; and , albeit it were so that in expresse termes they had no suche authoritie and commission, yet could not Her Majestic be of opinion but that, all circumstaunces considered, they might with ther dewties do it, considering the present necessite, yet Her Majestic saw not how they could well justifie the contrarie to ye Kinge ther master in case, throughe this refusall of this surseauce, the daunger wherof they have bene frendlye forewarned, should unhappelye succede.

And at lengthe, when I sawe that theis and divers other reasons I alleged to this effect to induce them the rather to geve Her Majestic some better satisfaction, could therein tittle profite, I concluded that Her Hyghness found it a matter of that perill to herselfe and State as, howsoever they esteemed of it, she bothe was in pollice and dewtie to looke into it, and should in fine, as she feared, be urged of mere necessitie to do that in pretention therof, which otherwise she would not. And so, after they had made some formall protestation of ther sincere meaninges, and good willes as well to furder a home quiet as to interteyne the owtwarde amitie with Her Majestic and her countrie, with sondrie like circumstaunces, I thought it good to desire for my better satisfaction of Her Majestic to have this ther aunswere in writinge, which they promisinge me I should have to morrowe, we brake upp and so ended.

And this is the somme of that I have done hitherto sence my comminge, which I humbly beseche Your Honor to impart unto Her Majestic, whose gracious pardon I most humblie crave in case I have not sufficientlye discharged my dewtie to Her Highnesse contentation, a fawlt rather to be imputed to ye wantt of skill then of loyall and dewtifull divotion to satisfie Her most excellent Majestic, whom I beseche Allmightie God to blesse on earth with long life and prosperous government over us, and in the life to come with eternal happeness.

(*British Museum, Harley, 285, fol. 40.*)

MMMCXXXIX.

*Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(MIDDELBURG, 17 AVRIL 1576)

Sédition parmi les Anglais de la compagnie du capitaine Cromwell. — Méfiance qui se manifeste en Zélande à l'égard des Anglais. — Siège de Zierickzee.

Right honorable, Sence the writinge unto you of my last letters, there happened a sedition in Hollande emongst our Englishmen lately comme over into the Prince's service. Cappitaines Cromwelle's enseigne was sent by the Prince's commandement from Delft towardes Leyden with ther monnetthes paye, and, as they had not sojourned longe ther, letters camme from the Prince that Cromwell should, with his bande, marche further towardes Worden, at which divers of his bande first stommake and begonne to demande another monnetthes paye, which was not dewe. At the last, when ther cappitaine travaylled to make them goo towardes Worden, as the Prince had commanded, three of them, to witt George Hill, Thomas Philippe and Commines flattely denyed to goo, yea, refused to be under his bande, and dealt with the rest of the company in suche sort that Cromwell was leaft with his only lieutenant and four corporalles. Then they beganne to take the part of the towne, which is towardes Harlem, and to strenghten them selfe ther, vauntinge openly that they never swarne to serve the Prince, and that they were for the Kinge and the Quene. In this cace, Cromwell departed towardes the Prince, and opened the cace unto him, who forthwith sent xxx horsemen thither, with ij enseignes, to provide for suche daunger as might ensewe. It was thought that they had some understanding with them of Harlem, for that they had invaded the gate of the towne next unto Harlem, and, because they had uttered suche desperat speeche, at the lenght perceavinge they could not prevayle, they rendred them selves, and the three above mentioned were beheaded, six more are in prison, of which somme shalbe passe the same way. Thes newes, conferred with other advertisementes receaved here, make the Gouvernour to thincke that no good is to be looked for out of England; for they have bene advertised a littell before by a Spaynard, the spye for Walchren, that the Quene's Majestie hath prompted the Kinge of Spayne to reduce Holland unto his obedience, by sending certayn of her subjectes to serve there. Wherfor the Gouvernour toald me this daye that he would take hede of Englishmen, and that, although the Prince commanded them hundred tymes to suffre Englishmen to entre the iland, he would never permitt them to arryve here. « Now

» surely, said I, you are to blame to judge after this sourt, as you doo, of Her Majestie,  
 » which allwayes hath ayded the afflicted, as in Fraunce, and Scotland well appeared;  
 » and, as for that which was donne in Hollande, he perceaved well that it came not  
 » from the cappitayn and officers, but of some mutinous souldiers, which had ther  
 » reward. I wysshed God that they might be able to releave. »

Right honorabile, the daye after the writinge of my former letter, the Prince's floate approached nighe the entry of the haven of Ziricksea, meaning to breake and dissolve a pallavizade ther made, which hindred there entryng that waye, where they founde the enemye, and fought very furiously six houres longe. The Admirall Boysott tooke two principall galleys ther called the Admirall and Vice-admirall, wherin they founde 8 pieces of bruns, and sett on fire a fleeboate of the enemyes. In the galley called the Admirall they affirme that Adrian Coppejans was commander, who was cast over boorde with all the reast in gallyes. The Admirall confirmed thes newes with his owne letters, and re . . . . the 14 of this monnethe, who addeth that they loast and had wounded of theirs as good as 80 souldiers. No victales is as yet entred into the towne, but they doubt not of victalinge it. The entreprise of Amsteradam is frustraded and camme to no effect. Afterwarde the souldiers made a roade to West-Friselande, and, havinge spoyled many villages, retourned, no other thing beinge done. This daye camme a commandement from the Admirall to all fleeboates to hasten with all expedition to rendre them selves at Browershaven.

From Middelborogh, 17 aprilis 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 758.)

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MMMCXL.

*Instruction pour Robert Beale.*

(21 AVRIL 1576.)

Plaintes diverses relatives aux actes de piraterie commis par les marins de Flessingue.

*A note of suche thinges for whiche I most speake unto the Prince of Aurenge.*

First to declare unto His Excellency what report I made unto My Lordes of the Councill and unto Her Majestie, touchinge the effect of my message that Her Majestie and Their Honours were in a manner contented, if no further complayntes had come.

Item to declare the occasion wherfore I was sent unto Flusshinge and how and after what manner I was east on lande at Oestende, and of my long aboade.

Then to deliver unto His Excellency the . . . . and newes letters, and the Count of Lecester and M<sup>r</sup> John Cobham his letter.

Item to talke then of particular matters, as of the Martins and the shippe *Christ*, etc., and to declare how necessarie it wilbe for His Excellency to provyde for order to be taken for the merchantes traffickinge, because that the enormities are greater then they were and dayle wilbe more grevous.

Item to demonstrate unto His Excellency what violence is shewed unto the Merchantes Adventurers and how ther shippes be stayed, which both should goo for Andwarpe and for Englande. Especially to declare unto him that even M<sup>r</sup> Harbert could not have leave to departe. Here you may withall make relation what delays have bene offred unto him, that he hath as yet no aunswere unto the shippe of *Buttellholders*, for which Her Majestie hath written, and that no regarde is yet had of the complayntes for Simons of Plimmouthe, for which four shippe be stayed, and are to be restoared, when justice is donne for the complaint of Simons. To tell the Prince that the Estates of Zelande do yet owe 4000 liv. unto the Merchantes Adventurers, which is a pleadge sufficient, and that they nede not for the staye of ther shippes in England make suche a staye of the Adventurers' shippes.

Item to desire the Prince to alter Martin Frolicke's passeport.

Item to commende unto His Excellency my brother Philippe his case.

In talkinge with His Excellency towelinge the Merchantes Adventurers, declare unto the Prince that, when all shippes were licensed to depart, yet the Merchantes Adventures shippes were commanded to be stayed.

Item to declare unto the Prince the detayninge of Herroyes at Gertrudens, beinge sent for the company of the Merchantes Adventurers.

Item to declare unto the Prince the mannor of proceeding of the commissioner Textor in Zelande, and how that matter desplayseth My Lordes of the Councell, to adjoyne the wronge donne unto M<sup>r</sup> Costardine.

To declare what insolency Monsieur Hauttayne useth towards the nation.

Item to put the Prince in mynde of that which I proposed unto him the last yeare, for the staynge of complayntes, and, suffering the Merchantes Adventurers and Staplers to trafficque into Brabant and Flanders, all other shall cease to trade thither.

(Record office, Cal., n° 747.)

## MMMCXLI.

*Davison à lord Burleigh.*

(BRUXELLES, 21 AVRIL 1576)

Le Conseil d'État, à peu d'exceptions près, est favorable à la paix. — Le manque d'argent développe le désordre parmi les soldats. — Suite de la guerre en Zélande. — Nouvelles diverses.

My especiall good Lord, I wrote unto Your Lordship this other day uppon th'aunswer I received here. Since the Lordes have sent me a confirmation therof in writing, which I do presently addres unto Your Honnours.

I cannot learne but that the States do generally bend to a peace, though perhaps Barlamont, d'Assonville, Rhoda and one or two more, that finde it profitable fishing in troubled waters, will for their particulers not much hasten the same. At the retourne of Monsieur d'Havrech, who is every day attended and looked for with good tydings in that behaulf, the matter will better shew it self. In the meane while I observe a generall disposition in the Common States to stretch themselves in no further contribution of mony, unles they may have peace and the straungers removed hence.

The generall want of mony amongst the Kinge's people will breede some dainger, without the more tymely provision. His garrisons at Valenciennes, Bosleduc, Deventer and Oldwater are already mutyned for ther pay, and they of Mاسترخت uppon litle better pointes, who threaten the townesmen dayly of the like, unles they take some order that they may be aunswered, a matter that in this tyme and generall lack of mony doth much trouble the States here, who have of late held hard consultation about the meanes to help their matters; but what is concluded or how the present lack shalbe supplied, I cannot yet heare. I heare from Zirickze that in the late conflict the King had two galleys takin, and one shipp sonck, and th'Admirall of the fleet of Donkerk burnt by the Prince, who, on th'other side, had two or three flatt boates sonck.

The fight was on fryday night, the 15<sup>th</sup> of this moneth, since which tyme they have gevin one only attempt more, but to litle purpose. It is thought at the next spring the Prince will do his uttermost for the succour therof.

The Kinge's forces their are about 4000 Spanyardes, Wallons and Allmaynes. The ile notable fortified with bulwarkes, trenches and dytches, having, within every flight shott, skowte watches. The head well fortified and kept with six enseignes of Wallons. The passage stronglie chayned and pyled, and within the chaynes ten of the greatest

shippes the King hath, with thre galleys, having besides made a bullwark, wheron lieth six great cannons, so as it is thought impossible to pass that way and in a manner impossible to succour them any way els.

Sancio d'Avila, who very hardlie escaped there with his life, being driven to save him self by wading upp to the neck in water, is come sick to Andwarp to mak the funeralls of his wife, who died in the meane tyme.

I was latelie written unto by My Lord of Westmerland, the copie of whose letter I herin send Your Lordship, but refused to have to deale with him in any sort or other. I am infourmed of credit that he is secretly come to this towne, and is a dayly companyon to the Hammiltons that slue the Regent Morray.

Th'English men takin at Brewars-Haven and comitted to the galleys, of whom I advertised in my last, have made supplication to me to labour for them. But, unles Her Majestie or Your Honors do give some order for yt, there is no hope of their delivery.

Here arryed a post out of Spayne this week, but I can heare of no speciall matter he brought, more then a confirmation of the former letters touching the gouvernement.

The Spanyardes that have devotion to retourne home into Spayn, have pasport and good leave offered theim. But I heire of none that makes any great haste awaye.

Here was a brute that the Prince's shippes, to the number of 100 sayle, after the fight against Zirickse, should be gotten to the sea, of whose intent there were divers conjectures made, but I cannot yet heare that it is of any certeinty.

Here is newes out of Bohemia that the Turk maketh great preparation to come this sommer into Hungary.

It is likewise advertised hither out of Italy that the Genuoys be accorded.

And so, hasting to conclude theis my rude letters and presuming of Your Lordship's favourable judgement both of theim and me, I moste humbly take my leave, beseching God to give Your Lordship longe, honorable and happie life <sup>1</sup>.

At Bruxells, the xxj<sup>th</sup> of aprill 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 748.)

<sup>1</sup> Roda écrivait, le 15 avril 1576, à Philippe II que la reine d'Angleterre avait envoyé à Bruxelles un gentilhomme de sa maison nommé Davison. Il avait fait sa proposition à voix fort basse au Conseil, mais on avait compris qu'il venait demander que les hostilités fussent suspendues et qu'on reprit les négociations de Breda. M. d'Assonleville avait été chargé de négocier avec lui. Certes, il était difficile de traiter de nouveau avec les rebelles sans compromettre l'autorité du roi; mais le vœu général du pays appelait le rétablissement de la paix. (GACHARD, *Corresp. de Philippe II*, t. IV, p. 65.)

## MMCXLI.

*Davison à Walsingham.*

(BRUXELLES, 21 AVRIL 1576.)

Même objet.

Sir, The ix of this present I wrote unto Your Honor what I could then of any moment. Since I receyved by Secretarie Bertie th'answer of the Lordes in writing to that I did negociat with them, which I have thought good to send Your Honour, together with advise of as much as is presentlie offered me.

Till the retourne of Monsieur d'Havrech, who is every day looked for, or some other expres messenger out of Spayne, here is nothing like to be done for a peace. In the meane while the whole country and States are put in hope to receive by him some good resolution from the King in that behaulf, and seeme generally bent to depart with no more mony till they see some effect therof.

Heere is constant newes that the garrisons in Valenciennes, Bosleduc, Deventer and Oldwater are mutined for their pay, a matter that, in this tickle tyme and generall lack of mony, doth half amaze the States here, who doubt some shrewde sequell therof, especially at Bosleduc, with whome some feare the Prince's folk, at Bemel hard by them, have some intelligence.

It is thought the garrison of Mاسترخت standeth uppon litle better pointes, who threaten the townesmen dayly of a mutyny unles they take some order for mony to discharge them.

The Councell here have of late bene in hard consultation about meanes to get mony, but what is concluded or how the present lack shalbe supplied, I do not yet heare.

In the late confict at Zirickse, it is said the King had ij galleges takin, one shipp sonck, and t'Admirall of the Dunkerk fleet burnt by the Prince, who, on th'other side, had ij or iij flatt boates sonck.

The fight was on fryday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of this instant, in the night, since which tyme they have geven one only attempt more, but to like purpose. It is thought at the next spring the Prince will do his uttermost for the succour therof.

The Kinge's number there are about 4,000 of Spanyardes, Wallones and Allmaynes. The yle fortified with bullwarekes, trenches and ditches, having, within every flight shot, scowte watches. The head is very strongly fortified, and kept with 6 enseignes of Wallons. The passage strongly chayned and pyled, and within the chaynes 10 of the

greatest shippes the Kinge hath and three galleys, besides a bullwark they have made, wheron lieth 6 greate cannons, so as it is thought impossible to pas that waye and in a manner impossible to succour them any way els.

Sancio d'Avila, who very hardly escapid them with his life, being driven to save him self by wading upp to the neck, is come sick to Andwarp to make the funeralls of his wife, who died in the mean tyme.

My Lord of Westmerland wrote unto me this other day, the copie of whose letter I send unto Your Honour; but, as I had no comission, so would I not in one sort or other have to deale with him. I do heare he is secretlie come to this towne, where he yet abydeth.

Th'English men, latelic takin at Browershaven and comytted to the galleys, have addressid supplication to me to labour for their delivery, which, as farre as I see, will very hardly be obteynid : howbeit, if Your Honour do give me commission, I will do th'uttermost I can.

Here arryved a post out of Spayne this week, but I can heare of no speciall matter he brought, more then a confirmation of the former letters touchinge the gouvernement. The Spanyardes that have devotion to go home into Spayne, have pasport offered them. Wheruppon some begynn to hope well; but others jealous of the handling of thinges here do think both that other are baytes for mony, which without countenance of peace, etc., will hardly be drawn from the comons.

Here is newes out of Bohemia that the Turk maketh greate preparation to come this sommer into Hungary.

It is said here the peace in Fraunce is utterly brokin of, but yet some jealousie retayned of them.

It hath bene geven out that 100 sayle of the Prince's shippes should be gone to sea, and conjectures made of the cause and intent, but I cannot heare any sufficient confirmation therof yet.

I send Your Honour herewith a distribution of the garrisons in Holland and Utreight, which I have recovered from one that should knowe somewhat, but I will give no sentence therof.

And so, having nothing els worthe advertisement, presuming still of Your Honour's favourable excuse and construction of the lackes in my rawe service here, I moste humbly take my leave, beseching Almightye God to bless the same with much encrease of honour, health and all other his good giftes.

At Bruxells, the xx<sup>th</sup> of aprill 1576.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 751.*)



## MMMCXLIII.

*John Grey à lord Burleigh.*

(ANVERS, 22 AVRIL 1576.)

Considérations qui devraient engager la reine à accepter les propositions qui lui sont faites par les États de Hollande et de Zélande.

Right honorable, I wishe you prosperitie withe longe lif. The earneste zeale I have of my natyve country constrayneth me to wryte you, which, accordinge to my simple meanyng, I praie Your Honour accept. Your Honour hath diligently to looke about now in this whaverynge tyme for safegarde of our Queene's Majestie's countres. Your Honour knoweth many thinges, and do see how greedy prynces ar of England, and what practises and what leages have byn made by forreyne princes to subdne our country, and as by the providence of God it ys hetherto defendyd, and by meanes contrary to man's expectation. Sethen nowe that God hath don so moche for us hetherto, let us not abuse the proffe and goodnes of Almighty God, but take it, when he sendeth it, and, while we may have it, seeke meanes to be hable to wythstand your enymye, when he commeth; for, to buyld upon Papists' promise, Your Honour ys not unacquayntyd wythall, they will set all faith, all promyse apart to take advantage of suche as professe Christe; and therefore, to worke surely, I would not refuse myne enymye's shild when it ys offred, for havinge myne enymye's weapons, reason geaveth he could not do me moche hurte. Notwithstandinge I could geve him them againe upon goode reason at all tymes. My Lorde, ye may see wherof I wuld speake. Holland and Zeelande, as I learne, hath byn offryd to our Queene's Majestye. I wishe she wuld take it and keepe it for the defence of her owne countries; for, havinge that, she ys hable to beate all prynces owt of her seas at her pleasure. The beste havons in Ewrope she shuld possesse for shippinge, marynars and fishinge, passe all the world. Greate profyt otherwise wuld com unto the crowne of England, and yet shuld the Kinge of Spayne put it up also, and all the countrey here besydes, for they ar not hable to make warres against England, no not so moche to put theyre noises at seas. I have hard many wise men mervaile that the Counsaile of England dothe not perswade the Queene to deale as ys saide afore; for all men ar here resolved and say that, England, Holland and Seeland unytyd in one, no prynce in the world can hurte Inge-land. Now, My Lorde, perhaps it would be demandyd whether the countreys wuld or might be kept wythout rebellion : I answeare yea, with small garrison. Againe you

wuld thinke that Walkerne, an island of Zealand wherin standethe Myddlebowghe, Camfire and Flusshinge, Armuen and Ramekyns, wuld not be destroyed wythe cuttinge thorough the dykes, in lettynge in water. I answeare no; for what walter rennethe in at the highe water, rennethe owt agayne at a lo water, wythout rentinge or washinge awaye the earthe fourther then by labour ys taken awaye, which ys the great strenthe of the ilande; for you may let in walter to annoye th'enymye in the countrey and stop it up agayne every tyde, whych everye man knoweth not, but I have seene it.

My Lorde, there lyethe a thowsande tymes more daunger in makinge this peace here betwyne the Prynce of Orange and the Spanyardes then in meantayning the warres. The Inquisition of Spaine hathe a longe taile, and, where you weare wont to deale with th'Estates of the countrey here, you shalbe sure now to deale with the taile of the Inquisition; for your trusty States ar to be soght wythe torches and not to be founde, and suche as theyre be, ar sought owt and appoyntyd to serve tournes. Ys it true, My Lorde, that I wryte you, do you know it? Well; then take head, and take tyme while God sendethe. All thos thinges put aparte, you, professinge the gospel, ought to seeke to destroy idolatry, and fourther the gospell, and with such fryndeship ought to be kept, and not wythe Turkes and idolatours, which ar blude suckers and never satisfied. I put the case: the peace ys made here. I do thincke it will not longe continue, for the papistrey will not permyt it, and no labour shalbe sparyd in bryngynge thinges to theyre desyre.

More, the Spanyardes, now understandinge the great welthe of the countrey here, the nature of the people, how ready they finde them to cutte one th'other's throte, and th'unspeakeable strengethe of the countrey, will seeke but warres, and minde to supresse the countrey, and afterwarde will levie suche great soms of money here that with their mony wuld weary all the world, which God forbyd.

Here gothe a talke that the Queene's Majesti hathe utterly refused the government of Holland and Zealand, and that the Prynce of Orange will give it over now unto the Frenche men. It were heavy newes for England, I truste the matter be otherwyse; for, if the Frenche men cam into it, theye will trowble all England and Spayne to geat them owt agayne.

I know not what necessity the Prynce ys dryven at, but nead dothe many thinges. And, as for my poorer simple judgement in the sequall of thys matter, and without fryndeship of Englande and unfaynyd conferrence with the noble Prynce of Orange, I thinke all will be nought, and great misery will fall owt to our countrey. Wherefore, My Lorde, as ye are a true peere of our realme, so weighe the matter and do your beste, and do it while ye have tyme, and say not: « If we had don that, we had don well » and ben in greate safgard and fourdell agaynste our enymye. » My Lorde, I wryte you because I am resolvyd in Your Honour, bothe for religion and otherwise.

There ys a great difference betwyne the callinge of a Parliament in England and the States of the contrey here; for the Generall States here ar never callyd togeather. If they might be indifferently callyd togeather, matters might be used accordingly, but by ordrynge of the Courte hit ys otherwyse.

The Kinge of Spayne hathe geven agayne or restoryd the countrey to her privileges. I am afraide it will fall owt to small benefyt of the countrey, but ys grauntyd to serve the Spanyardes tournes that the countrey shall graunt money to cute their owne throtes in mayntaynyng warres in the countrey. Here ar certayne Englishmen put in a greate galley in cheynes of yron, and have their heades and bardes shaven, and wilbe starved if they so longe remayne. They have cold cheare and strypps ynougbe: it gryvethe all men's hartes to see it. The ships tooke them commynge towardes Newhaven.

All that I wryte, I do it for the best, and I beseeche Your Honour take it. And so I ende, commytynge Your Honour to the tuytion of Almighty God, who graunt you longe life and geve you grace to do those thinges that please him.

The 22 aprill 1576, in Andwarpe.

(Record office, Cal., n° 755.)

MMMCXLIV.

*Walsingham à Davison.*

(23 AVRIL 1576.)

Il fait connaitre à Davison qu'il doit retourner en Angleterre. — Sa mission est terminée puisque l'intention du roi est de continuer la guerre. — Il regrette que la noblesse des Pays-Bas n'ait pas saisi cette occasion d'assurer la liberté du pays.

Having imparted unto Her Majestie the contentes of your letter towching your charge, whoe dothe verry well allowe of your manner of proceading, she wylled me to sygnefye unto you that her plesure is that you staye no longer ther, but that you retourne with sooche convenient speed as you may. She fyndethe by the awnswar geven unto you by the Governors there, as also by the King's letters written unto them, wherof you sent the coppye, that yt is determyned to prosecute the matter with the swoorde, and that they stande assured that Fraunce wyll not enter into this actyon with the Prince, so that in reason, having no forreyn assystaunce, he can not long howld owt nowe, seing by sundrye evydent conjectures that your staye ther (they being

resolved as they are) can not be greatly profitable, but rather may breed in the said Governours there that your commyng thither was to some other ende then is pretended. I can not myslyke of Her Majestie's revocaton of you. I fynde by your letters that there is neyther courage, nor judgement in the nobyltye ther, in that they overslip so apt a tyme to purchase ther owne lybertye, whoe, contrarye to all reason, do prosecute the warrs ageynst the Prince with more extremyte than the Commandador dyd, wherby yt is most evydent that that contrye is in his declynatyon and wyll shortly faule under the spanyshe yoke to ther utter undoing and owre great perryll. Having an eye cyther to the spanyshe mallyce or the corruptyon of owre own Estate, owre frynds wyll no longer suffre us to nestell in this owre long contynued servyce, and so I comyt you to God.

At the Coorte, the xxiiij<sup>d</sup> of aprill.

(Record office, Cal., n° 754.)

MMMCXLV.

*Daniel Rogers au prince d'Orange.*

(LA BRIELE, 24 AVRIL 1576.)

Exposé de toutes les plaintes auxquelles ont donné lieu les excès commis par les marins de Flessingue. — Il serait d'une bonne politique de ne pas irriter les Anglais, dont on réclame sans cesse l'appui.

Cum sub finem superioris anni ab Illustrissima Excellentia Vestra ad ordines Zelandiæ redirem ad ea negotia conficienda, quæ paulo ante ob cædem clarissimi herois piæ memoriæ Domini Caroli Boisotti inchoata istic reliqueram, cum ex animi sententia lites de navi Christi nomine appellata, aliaque transigere nequirem, nihil prius censui quam ut ad Serenissimam Reginam, cjusque Majestatis honoratissimos Consiliarios reverterer, coramque explicarem quo animo Excellentia Vestra Reginæ postulata prosecuta fuisset, quidque Vlissingenses ad singula ipsis proposita capita respondissent. Quo tempore, cum mercatores a Vlissingensibus fortunis suis spoliati, justitiam ex voto sibi non administratam fuisse intelligerent, litteris repræsaliarum a Regina, maximo studio, multis precibus requisitis, damna ipsis illata ulcisci et fortunas suas vi resarcire cogitarunt. Quorum postulatis Serenissima Majestas Sua non perinde acquievit quin, habita ratione temporis et necessitatis qua Vlissingenses premi asseverebam, cum consideraret quid Excellentia Vestra reciperet, quid etiam Vlissingenses

pollicerentur (pollicebantur enim se brevi et stato tempore recompensaturos quæ in Christi navi amissa fuissent), mitius cum afflictis agendum esse pro clementia sua existimavit. Commorabantur tum in Anglia præstantissimi viri D. Philippus Marnixius, Paulus Buisius ac Franciscus Maelsonius ad Serenissimam Reginam ab Excellentia Vestra legati, qui, cum ad munienda Reipublicæ negotia ac de rebus gravissimis cum Majestate Sua ac honoratissimis Consiliariis consultarent, experti, credo, sunt quam publica illa privatis istis sed quotidianis querelis in Vlissingensium insolentiam motis sæpe retardabantur. Tum enim accidit, quum veteres querelæ nondum sopitæ essent, Indies novarum uberior seges oriretur, magna profecto cum Reginæ, tum Consiliariorum admiratione. Dum enim legati Illustrissimæ Excellentie Vestræ Rempublicam Christianam fulcire ac Serenissimæ Reginæ patrocinio munire contendunt merito cum Consiliariis suis, Regina demirabatur non desistere eo rerum statu Vlissingenses a subditis Majestatis Suæ injuriose infestandis, ac ne quidem regni portus immunes ab eorum rapaci violentia relinqui. Ad veteres igitur querelas plene dirimendas et ad novas restringendas, de sententia Serenissimæ Reginæ in Zelandiam denuo ablegatus fui, quemadmodum ex litteris ab illustri Barone D. Burghlæo, primario regni Thesaurario, Domino Thoma Smitho, Domino Francisco Walsingamo, Serenissimæ Reginæ Consiliariis, ad D. Ludovicum Boisottum, Excellentie Vestræ Amirallum, scriptis liquet. Sperabam autem, commorantibus Excellentie Vestræ legatis in Anglia, illisque crebro Vlissingenses ut moderate cum Serenissimæ Reginæ subditis agerent admonentibus, omnia leniori negotio posse confici, nec opus fore Excellentie Vestræ aures similibus querelis rursus obtundere. Cæterum iter meum variis casibus obnoxium fuit, nec ad portum ad quem contenderam, pro animi arbitrio pervenire poteram. Sævientibus enim ventis et pelagi procellis tantum non a fluctibus absorbtus fui, proque Vlissingensibus quos adibam in Morinorum litus Oestandam abreptus, difficulter tandem quo cursus fuit perveni. Cum vero portum contigissem quo cursum direxeram, absentem intelligi Amirallum, nec querelarum numerum diminutum sed novis cumulis immane quantum auctum reperi. Intellexi etiam exacerbatum Serenissimæ Reginæ animum, ob interceptam Freto Britannico Legati Portugallensis in Anglia residentis sponsam, ad quam tuto in Angliam perducendam nobilem virum Joannem Cobbamum Majestas Sua Caletum ablegarat. Quare pro re nata consultissimum duxi, relicta Zelandia, Hollandiam petere ut, quo loco Excellentia Vostra consisteret, Amiralliusque moram traheret, remedium ingruentibus malis invenirem. Obtestor igitur Excellentiam Vestram etiam atque etiam secum ponderet quam æqua sint Serenissimæ Reginæ postulata, quæ per me Vestræ Excellentie ante proposuit, nuncque repetit. Judicet an Majestatis Suæ sit pati ut subditi sui ad hunc modum Vlissingensium libidini effrenatæ subjiciantur. Expendat an non causæ quam Excellentia Vestra propugnat, hac [ratione] ignominia inuratur. Denique iterum atque iterum examinet

an ex Reipublicæ commodo sit ut licentia hæc Vlissingensibus concedatur. Equidem qui Vestræ Excellentiæ ex animo bene volunt, ii, si quid recte augurantur, ad causæ vestræ perniciem ipsis hæc permitti censent. Eo enim crevit Vlissingensium in mercatoribus divexandis extrema cupiditas ut ad eos spoliandos promptissimi, ad hostes vero in ipsos proficiscentes repellendos remissiores inveniantur, quique ante gubernatorum et præfectorum vicibus regebantur, nunc gubernatoribus ipsis sæpe dominantur. Ac tollerabilius quidem hoc hominum genus esset si, cum mare infestant, hostibus solis vim inferrent. Nunc, præterquam quod sine discrimine omnes dispoliant, in portus etiam regni Anglici violenter irruunt, nec exterorum tantum, sed Serenissimæ Reginæ subditorum naves invadunt, ac Vlissingam tamquam hostilia spolia abripiunt. Huc accedit quod, cum Anglis antea in Flandria trajecturis molesti solum essent, nunc nusquam illis, Vlissingensium obstante violentia, mercaturam facere licet. Quocunque navigant, in Walchriam inviti rapiuntur. Judicet Excellentia Vestra pro ingenii sui æquitate num Serenissima Regina, cujus proprium imperium est in Britannicum Mare, hæc ferre debeat. Præterquam enim quod Britannicum Mare a Britannia Insula denominetur, insularumque singulare jus sit in vicina æquora, hoc mare a circumjacentium provinciarum regibus et principibus Britanniæ olim adjudicatum fuit, cujus autoritas tanta semper fuit ut nulli armato liceret fretum illud oberrare citra regis Anglici indulgentiam. Quo jure igitur Vlissingenses hoc mare tantopere infestent, merito Regina rogat, excandescitque tam multiplicibus suorum subditorum damnis exagitata ita ut nondum constituerit an auxilia vobis præstare vel injurias illatas ulcisci debeat. Æquum certe est illorum jura non violare, a quibus auxilia petuntur, modesteque se gerant oportet, qui alios in sui favorem rebus afflictis et accisis student allicere. Quod si de auxilio a Serenissima Regina impetrando Excellentia Vestra desperet, subditos ejus inique tractando, ne hostem faciat studiose caveat. Queat potius rationes, quibus amicitia non constet tantum, sed confirmetur et augeatur. Ac, quandoquidem Excellentia Vestra, litteris per me Serenissimæ Reginæ ultimo novembri missis, recepit se cauturum ne similes enormitates in subditos Majestatis Suæ deinceps exercerentur, tempus postulat ut promissa jam præstentur. Ut igitur cognoscat Excellentia Vestra quæ Serenissimæ Majestati Suæ inprimis displiceant, ex plurimis pauca hic annotabo, quæ, si rite secum Excellentia Vestra ponderet ac corrigat, quemadmodum in eo Serenissima Regina satisfactum sibi existimabit, sic privatim et Hollandiæ et Zelandiæ recte consuluerit.

Quemadmodum igitur Serenissima Regina Dominam Lucretiam filiam Caroli Affeitati, sponsam Legati Portugallensis, commorantis in Anglia, captam prope Dovoriam, abductamque Vlissingam, reddi sibi cum omni comitatu postulavit, non est quod hic repetam. Illa vero cum quibusdam suis in Angliam jam pervenit, sed destituta quatuor ex comitibus suis, quos vicissim restitui incolumes, citra redemptionem ullam, Majestas Sua requirit. Hos, nulla habita ratione litterarum quas bis ad Excellentiam Vestram

Serenissima Regina hoc nomine perscripsit, Zelandi in vinculo detruserunt, inhumani-terque tractarunt. Equidem juste hos Sua Majestas reposit, quandoquidem Dominæ Lucretiæ partim famuli erant, partim comites ad quam cum comitatu suo tuto in Angliam perducendam ex nobilibus domesticis D. Joannem Cobbamum Caletum Regina ablegavit, suoque patrocínio comitatum integrum dignata fuit.

At illud imprimis Serenissimam Reginam movet quod, cum Excellentiae Vestrae classarii in portus regni Anglici ingrediuntur, ingratis hospites se præbeant. In naves enim Anglorum insolentissime involant, bona auferunt ac Vlissingam abripiunt. Petit igitur Serenissima Regina ut ad Amirallitatis Zelandicæ curiam Excellentia Vestra ea de re accurate scribat, isti Vlissingensium insolentiæ fræna injiciat, ne Majestas Sua alia ratione providere cogatur.

Deinde, cum iidem Excellentiae Vestrae classarii Anglorum naves in Galliam, Hispaniam, Portugalliam et Italiam proficiscentes, indeque redeunt cum mercibus invadant, in eoque se Excellentiae Vestrae edictum exequi testentur, quo diserte ipsis mandatur ut ad hostes Excellentiae Vestrae proficiscentes et ab iis redeunt involent ac in Zelandiam vel in Hollandiam rapiant, cum Serenissima Regina nunquam feret ut inconsueta in ea regna mercaturam faciendi potestas suis restringatur, petit ut Vestra Excellentia, litteris ad Amirallitatem Zelandicam missis, Anglos saltem excipiat, serioque suis interdicit ne commeantibus et remeantibus in dicta regna Anglis molestias exhibeant.

Tum, quod ad Flandriam atinet, cum Serenissima Regina contenta sit, durantibus intestinis hisce bellis, ut exceptis stapulariis reliqui sui subditi mercibus in Flandriam transfretandis abstineant, consideret Vestra Excellentia num ex re sua sit, hoc concesso, tam uberem segetem querelarum, quæ Indies ex Anglorum in Flandriam intercepta navigatione ad Majestatem Suam deferuntur, quibusque tantopere exagitur, rescindere. Primum enim Stapularii bis per annum in Flandriam, invitis Excellentiae Vestrae classariis, adjuti militaribus Reginæ navibus trajiciunt. Quod si igitur liberum hoc illis iter permittatur, reliquisque subditis Majestas Sua interdicit, ne in Flandriam merces transportentur, si quid adversi illis accidat, cum contra voluntatem Reginæ facient, querelas ad Majestatem Suam de eo non deferent, quibus sublatis necesse est favorabiliorem Majestatem Suam Excellentia Vestra experiatur.

Avventurarii autem, superiori anno initis cum Vestra Excellentia conditionibus ut libero Scaldi fruerentur, maximo eorumdem damno . . . septem hebdomadas Vlissingæ contra pacta sistuntur. Quod sane honoratissimis Reginæ Consiliariis vehementer displicet, ac merito, cum videant ipsa etiam pacta Anglis violari, quibus eo etiam major injuria facta est quod, cum ante tres septimanas reliquorum navibus discedendi facultas facta fuit, solis Adventurariis ne recederent, imperatum fuit. Sunt illic octo vel novem eorum naves, quæ reditum in patriam moliantur; sunt quinque vel sex quibus

Antwerpiam cursus est. Quod si Vlissingenses (quod quosdam ex iis innuere comperi), ob quatuor suas naves in littoribus Anglicis arrestatas, Aventurarium onerarias sistere cogitent, næ illi vident quid agant. Præterea sciunt se ad quatuor millia librarum Flandricarum obserratos Aventurariis teneri, quæ summa quatuor eorum navibus in Angliam arrestatis longe major est. Causam vero quatuor eorum Vlissingensium arrestatorum Excellentiae Vestrae D. Joannes Herbertus a Serenissima Regina nuper ad Excellentiam Vestram ablegatus aperuit. Cum enim Vlissingenses ex portu Anglico insolentissime Guilielmo Simonio Plimmuthensi navem eripuissent, petiit ille, supplicatione honoratissimis Consiliariis exhibita, liceret sibi quatuor illas Vlissingensium, quæ ad ostium Fale tum temporis commorabantur sistere donec illi sua restitueretur. Eo autem Vlissingensium excrevit insolentia ut licere sibi Anglis omnia hostilia inferre, Anglos vero præter fas et æquum, si injuriis affecti ipsorum naves arrestent, agere existiment. Hoc loco honoratissimi Consilarii a Vestra Excellentia petunt ut, secundum pacta cum Vestra Excellentia inita, Scaldis liber Aventurariis maneat, ne Vlissingæ diutius cum ruina plurimorum detineantur. Is est enim mercatorum status ut, si præter opinionem merces a portu ad quem destinatae fuerant, tanto tempore detentæ alibi fuerint, sæpe fore ut cum fidei et fortunarum jactura cedere cogantur.

Quod ad navem vero Christi spectat superiori anno Vlissingensium injuria a littore Anglico abreptam, eorundemque injuria submersam, tempus jam postulat ut damna amissione ejus navis illata proprietariis resarciantur, qua de re ut Excellentia Vestra ad Amiralitatis Zelandiæ curiam prescribat, cum D. Ludovicum Boisottum hic, ut sperabam, præsentem non reperiam, eam obtestor.

Porro Martiniorum trium fratrum Exoniensium civium negotium Serenissima Regina singularibus litteris prosecuta, majorem in modum, Excellentiae Vestrae commendat: de quo, cum ante, acto anno, cum Vlissingensibus ex mandato Majestatis Suæ egerim, quos iniquiores ex jurisperitorum sententia reperi, hinc quale illud sit paucis explicabo. Superioris anni vere dicti Martinii in Hispania varias merces emerunt, emptas in Dermouthensem Angliæ portum transportari euraverunt navi patria, cui Bartholomæo nomen erat. Ex eo portu charta nautica legitime confecta Dovoriam eadem bona anglicis quibusdam mercibus cumulata transmiserunt; nauclerum et suos obligarunt sibi ut de more Dovorias consisterent, donec certiores essent facti a proprietariis quo cursum dirigerent, num quasdam ex mercibus Londinium, num partem Rhotomagum vel etiam in Flandriam partem transferrent. Dum hæc navis littus anglicum raderet ac Dovoriam contenderet, antequam ad portum Angliæ præscriptum pervenisset, inter Riam et Dovoriam a capitaneo Clote Vlissingensi invaditur, Vlissingam defertur, sententia lata invasoribus adjudicatur. Causam vero condemnationis bonorum hanc allegarunt judices quod in navi capta litteræ inventæ fuissent, quibus constaret in Flandriam ea trajicienda. At Serenissima Regina injuriam sibi factam conqueritur quod, in littore regni



sui, hanc navem præter fas Vlissingenses invaserint; deinde, cum Dovoriam ex pacto contenderet, inique eam invasoribus adjudicatam fuisse; nam, posito eo quod in Flandriam Dovoriam profectura erat, non ideo in littore anglico, dum Dovoriam contenderet, capta antequam in Flandriam velificaret, fisco adjudicanda fuit. Quare, si Excellentia Vestra ut sua dictis Martiniis reddantur procuret, id quod justitiæ congruum est fecerit, ac æquitatem suam Serenissimæ Reginæ comprobabit.

Præterea scripsit Sua Majestas ad Vlissingenses ut navem cui Henrici Londinensis nomen est impositum, abductam vi<sup>o</sup> martii a littore anglico Vlissingam, dum in Portugalliam onusta bonis Anglorum tenderet, proprietariis restituerent: quæ litteræ cum ante mensem illis traditæ fuerint, nulla restitutio adhuc subsequuta est.

Sunt alia particularia subditorum Majestatis Suæ negotia quæ Serenissima Regina mæ fidei concedidit, in quibus rite expediendis de clarissimi Ludovici Boisotti æquitate non dubito. Unum est quod addam plurimos conquestos fuisse, supplicationibus Serenissimæ Reginæ exhibitis, quomodo a Gallis autoritate Condæi Principis mare oberrantibus spoliati fuerint, qui, cum spolia in Walchriam devexerunt, iudices ejus insulæ non agnoscunt, sed suæ gentis com . . . . habent, a quo Angli ablata reposcere coguntur. Hæc enim Amirallius, reliquique iudices ejus insulæ ad se spectare lites in Gallos motas asseverant. At honoratissimi Reginæ Consilarii existimant ratione loci et territorii Excellentiam Vestram teneri ut perspiciat ne Gallis in Walchriam æquo et jure plus in Anglos liceat, cumque non satisfaciat judex illius gentis, ut Vestra Excellentia de talibus negotiis cognoscat, petunt.

Postremo majorem in modum Excellentiam Vestram obtestor ne hæc et similia parva esse et nullius momenti judicet. Equidem ut parva sint Excellentiae Vestrae judicio maximis damnis Serenissimæ Reginæ subditos implicuerunt. Quod si parva sint, ne dedignetur Excellentia Vestra in his parvis Majestati Suæ gratificari, cumque Vestrae Excellentiae commodo non cedant, subditos vero Reginæ in ruinam præcipitent toties sollicitata his querelis, quemadmodum ut promisit, Excellentia Vestra præcaveat ac causæ inustam ignominiam abstergat et deleat. Sic eveniet ut qui Excellentiae Vestrae, videlicet cladibus a Vlissingensibus illatis exagitati, minus favent, æquiores futuri sunt, ac laborantes Hollandi et Zelandi favorabiliorem Serenissimam Reginam, cujus animus his injuriis exulceratur, sint experturi.

Brilæ Batavorum, 24 april. 1576.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. V, n° 97.*)

MMMXLVI.

*Davison à Halsingham.*

(ANVERS, 29 AVRIL 1576.)

Operations militaires en Zélande. — Convocation des Etats de Brabant. — Négociation du prince d'Orange avec les Français. — Nouvelles d'Allemagne.

Sir, Althoughe I hope within a day or two to be able to send Your Honour some certainty of the matters of Ziriczee, which are even nowe in handling, yet would I not in the meane tyme omitt by this poste the advertisment of that doth occur since my laste. Here is constant newes that, about Cullen, Munster, Andernaghen and in the sticht of Breme, are levied certain forces for the Prince of Aurenge, esteemed about 55 or 56 enseignes of footemen and 1,000 horsemen, by the Countes of Vandenberghe and de Meurs, his brethern in lawe, who are saide to be already marching downe by Wesell towards Bomel, and so to discend into Holland, whearuppon the Kinge's men at armes are sent towards Nemeghen to hinder their passage; and after them is gone two enseignes of Spanyardes brought from Tergoes thorough this towne, the 27<sup>th</sup> of this moneth, wheare, albeyt they arrived the night before, yet were not suffered to enter the towne till the next day, and then by the High-Dutches, under Conte Hanniball, were receyved at th'one gate, and conducted directlie out at th'other, not suffering a man of them to stay in the towne: a kind of entertaignment that much myslykes the Spanyardes, who nowe be so calmed as they can quietly put upp and digest this and other matters that within this twelve moneth would in no sorte have bene borne.

The Prince is come downe, with all the force he can make, towards Siriczee, and hath already, as it is sayde, landed certain pionniers and souldiers in S<sup>t</sup> Anne's-Land and Duveland, wheare they have begonn to cutt the ditches and drowned part of the iles, to the great annoy of the Kinge's folk, and hath, besides, brought parte of his fleete as farr as Barrow head, hemming in on every side the Kinges forces and stopping the passages, so as it is thought no vittuells can come to the camp, which breedeth a doubte now whether the matter stand uppon so sure termes on the Kinge's parte as they made reconing of.

Mondragon, on monday night laste, sent for the Spanyardes, Wallons and Dutches that laye in garrison at Barrow, Rosendale, Tertoll and other places therabouts, to the camp. And, yesterday, Sancio d'Avila is likewise gone thitherwardes with 60 Spanyardes of the garrison in the Castell, and with him Fowker with 100 High-Dutches, whose

men belowe begynn allready, as it is saide, to trust to ther heeles, as men not very well disposed to fight.

There came a herault and a trompet by, yesterday morning, sent from the lordes of the Counsell to Ziriczee, some say to offer them composition, but how they speede, we cannot yet learne <sup>1</sup>.

Yesterday was sent from this towne to Barrow 18,000 crownes for the solders pay, and Rhoda hath bene here theis two or three dayes in providing of 60,000 more to be sent ymediatly to Utreight to Monsieur d'Hierges.

It is gevin out that the King hath delivered in Spayne 500,000 liv. in exchange to be receved here, but that bragg hath bene so comon as it is not comonly belevid.

The Estates of Brabant, who before Easter wer assembled at Bruxells, are to meete thear againe on tewsday next; the cause, as farre as I can learne, is none other than a mony matter.

Here is a muttering that there should arryve at Flushing, on Easterday last, one sent on message out of Fraunce to the Prince, of whose negociation heer is some jealousy. But, if there be any such matter, I doubt not Your Honour shall have advertisement therof from M<sup>r</sup> Beale, who I heare arryved thear about the same tyme.

Here is nothing heard yet of Monsieur d'Havrech or any other messenger from the King with the resolution looked for, which maketh some of the wisest here suspect the slowe concludung of a peace, unles the state of thinges in Fraunce or some other great necessitie do hasten the same.

Out of Germany here is newes that t'Emperour is on his way to Rinsberghe, whcare he holdeth a Diet, and is afterwarde to depart into Polland to take possession of his newe kingdom and crowne.

Out of Italy I have no new thing.

And thus, longing to understand Your Honour's pleasure for my proceeding here, from whom I have hitherto since my comeng heard nothing, I ende, for this tyme, with moste humble prayer for your longe and happie life.

At Andwarp, the xxix<sup>th</sup> of aprill 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 762.)

<sup>1</sup> Le Conseil d'État écrivait le 22 avril à Philippe II :

Comme nous estiont venues plusieurs advertences, mesmes d'Hollande, que les gens illecq désiroyent qu'on parlast derechef du faict de la pacification, estimants qu'on trouveroit lesdicts d'Hollande, quant à la liberté de religion par eulx dernièrement demandée, estre maintenant en aultre humeur et opinion, nons avoit samblé bon que le Président du Conseil Privé par quelques parens ou amis siens s'enquestât s'il y avoit fondement de pouvoir se fier que lesdicts d'Hollande laisseriont derrière lediet point de liberté de religion, si l'on venoit de traicter avecques eulx. (GACHARD, *Correspondance de Philippe II*, t. IV, p. 110.)

## MMMCXLVII.

*Journal de Daniel Rogers.*

(MAI 1576.)

Conférences avec le prince d'Orange. — Nouvelles diverses.

*Maye.*

The first of maye, the Count of Hollache went with pioners and other companyes towardes the Plat to assault in some place Amelande, where they had landed the 27 of aprill before.

The 2 of maye, I was with the Prince. I desired him to write unto the Flussingers, towchinge suche thinges as he had received of me in writinge. He aunswere he had allreadie written and that they should sende unto him the causes of the complainetes. I replied that I should tarrye over longe, if he tarryed for an aunswere, and therefore desired him to writ touchinge certayne matters specially ther noted, as touching the Adventurers shippes arrested that they might be released; item touching the making an ende of dispute for the shippe called *the Christ*. He aunswere he thought, as longe as the towne of Ziricksea were not victaled, that nothinge could be done in Zelande, and, as for the Merchantes Adventurers shippes, they must tarry untill Ziricksea be victaled. I desired then that suche shippes of the Adventurers, as were bound for England, might depart, and that such as were for Andwerpe, might stayer untill Ziricksea were victaled, and told him that many might falle into banckrutecey. He aunswere it were better for merchantes to be banckroutes then that he should be banckrout; and, as for the complainet made against Textor, he said that, if he should be judge of thes matters, he should confirme other doinges, by which meanes the Frenche King had occasion to quarrel against him. He did connive unto their doinges as the Queen might doo and they of Embden did. In the ende, whereas I desired that the Prince would write for the Martin and others, he bad me make him a note, he would gladly write.

The 2 of maye, the Estates did sett about my matters, which I had proposed unto the Prince before in writing.

The 2, newes came that the Admirall was returned from Rommerswale and that he had escaped with great danger. Capptain Crum went to swymme into Ziricksea hindred.

The 2, arryved Master Barthel at Brill with 120 men.

The thirde of may, Mons. Ortell told me that the Estates had understoode how that Southaick had commission given unto him, not onely against Zelanders, but also Hollanders, which the Estates are moche moved withall, besides that Southaick had attached all the goades of Liffman, who wroate unto the Estates that he were undonne, if they caused him not to be released.

The 3, arryved at Delf M<sup>r</sup> Bartelot, whome I brought unto the Princee, and at the same tyme I gave unto the Prince a note of suche thinges, as I desired him to write for unto the Admirautie of Flusshinge.

The 3, I fell in talke with Paullus Buys touchinge divers thinges, who tolde me that he would gladly have some of the english wolles to be brought into Holland by the Staplers, that they have divers lawes by which they of Leyden most not make clothe, but of englishe wolles; and because they of Leyden and the reast of Hollande most goo to Bruges for the wolles, it would be dearer soolde in Hollande than in Flandres. I do not knowe what particular bondes made betwixt the Staplers and them of the Kinges maye hinder this purpose, but it is to be thought uppon.

The 4<sup>th</sup>, came newes out of Ziricksea, to wit three or four botmen which brought letters out of the towne. The enemy came the first day of maye and summoned the towne with faire promyses unto whome no aunswer was made. The 2, ther came a trompeter unto whome they shott. They have victalles for two monnethes well. They are mastres of the waters within the lande. They have spent the last of the corne, which was publick.

The Countesse of Nassau, mother unto the Prince of Aurange, living at this present, hath scene the issue of her bodie and bare of them twelf children. She had vyf sonnes and seven daughters, of which two, the Countesse de Meurs and the Countesse of Swarthenburch, never had any children, besides that Count Henry-Adolph of Nassau dyed unmarried.

Doctor Frances told me that two of Holland were appointed to be of the Admirautie of Zelande.

The 5<sup>th</sup> of maye, came M<sup>r</sup> Robert Bele to Delphe.

The Prince departed the 6<sup>th</sup> from Delphe to Brill, which gave an occasion that wee follow him from Delphe to Brill the 7<sup>th</sup> followinge.

The 7<sup>th</sup>, arryved M<sup>r</sup> Stewarde out of Scotland at Brill with two companyes of his owne, and captain Sletter with an other companye. Collonell Baulfoure is in the waye with five companyes more, and four came since november, so that ther are twelf companyes more of Scottishmen than there were before at my departure out of Holland in november last.

The 7<sup>th</sup>, I and M<sup>r</sup> Bele supped with the Prince and the Count of Cullenburche; and Paule Buys tolde me that there should be ordre taken at the Prince his comminge into

Zelande and that the shippes should be released. Paule Buys sayed that the Prince had commanded him to put in writinge certayn conditions to passe betwixt Her Majesties subjectes and his followers.

The Count Hollache tolde me that he ment not to assayle the ennemyes at Amelande, but onely to see what they had done : otherwise he had brought pioners with him.

The 7<sup>th</sup>, the Prince, tolde us of his departure towards Zeland and would have us to goo with him in his shippe.

The 7<sup>th</sup>, the Count of Cullenburche tolde me that Her Majestic had graunted letters of marcq against the Hollanders; he would wysshe Her Majestic to have [heard] first of all there allegations, before she dyd allow such thynges against them.

The 9<sup>th</sup> in the morninge, the Prince was readie betwixt two and three in the morninge to pass away from Brill towards Walchern, but the wynde served not.

The 10<sup>th</sup>, about two of the clocke in the morninge, the Prince went to the seas, whome M<sup>r</sup> Bele and I followed, and came the same daye to Camfere, otherwise called Vere. The night followinge, great shutinge was hearde.

The 11<sup>th</sup>, came newes that the Prince his souldiers had wonne a fort nigh to Amsterdam, greatly to the prejudice of the towne, and that uppon Duvelande-dike they had buylded two fortes, that the towne of Muiden was taken and yt the castel was besieged.

The 10<sup>th</sup>, departed M<sup>r</sup> Herbert with M<sup>r</sup> Bodenham towards Englande and tooke with him two pistoles which were taken from the Count of Oxenforth.

The 15<sup>th</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Bele and I went unto the Prince. He complayned touchinge the harde dealing with Leman and that ther was given a letter of marck unto Southaicke. He said that the traffick of Adventurers could no more be suffred; item that the loss of theses men were great, which of late had been sustayned, and that it surmounted above 40,000 florins; item that the Adventurers did transport other goodes than ther owne.

Newes came to the Prince the 15 at Middleburche that at Ziricksea men dyed from hunger, that the Spanyardes were comme nigh the hill of Ashes.

The 13, newes came that the peace was made in France and La Garde was appointed to depart into France. He departed with Mons. Kevers and Estaplesas the 14 of maye, conducted by shippes of warre.

The 18<sup>th</sup>, I dyned with the Prince. M<sup>r</sup> Bele was likewise desired; but, because of his toothe ache, he excused him selfe. After dinner, came M<sup>r</sup> Bele. Duringe the dinner, he sayed that as the 16 he had receaved letters out of Allemaigne, by which he understoode that the Dyet went forward in the Empire, where it should be concluded whether the Emperour should make his expedition towards Polland or no. Emongst other thinges he made mention how that he had bene in Englande about the year 1556, at

which tyme he understood that the Quene which now is, at the coronation of Quene Marie, should have carryed her trayne : at which tyme Quene Marie had at dinner with her divers embassadors, wher likewyse the Quene did sitt, but after the ambassadors. The French Ambassador after dinner came to the Quene, which now reyneth, and declared unto her how that daye Her Majestie had carryed the Queens traine and satt at dynner; that he doubted not but Her Majestie should wer the crowne and that the other should carry her trayne. When M<sup>r</sup> Bele came, he declared that, before the shippes stayed in Englande were returned, the english shippes could not depart. Item he would gladly see some certentaynety before that the Flussshingers should not be arrested or stayed in Englande hereafter.

Mons. Aldegonde told me that the Quenes Majestie at his departure had told him, if Her Majestie might understande that the Prince went about to seeke any forrayne ayde, she would give them to understande that the same did not mislike it.

Newes came the 20 how that Mons. de Lumbres and Chyndnay, goinge to surprendre the towne of Gravelinge, were taken prisoners and detayned in the towne. They were taken by them of Dunckerk, goinge towards Calays; item that the Count of Hollache had recovered Walchern-Island. He hath entrenched him selfe onely about Bergenhalt, where only are garrysons; item the 19 in the night was taken a mayden which was come from Duvelande with letters; item the 19 newes came that the peace was made the 5<sup>th</sup> of maye in Fraunce. Henry Barwick at the 18 was put in prison for havinge onely sayd that he had letters out of Englande, eight dayes past, that the peace was not made and that Rochell should have bene interrupted and that he would gage it was not then made.

Whereas the Prince had wonne Muyden and Duiversdeke, his men were constrayned to leave it agayne. Capptain Bots companye is sent towards North-Hollande, where more of our companyes are desired to come <sup>1</sup>.

The 20, letters were brought to the Prince, sent from Mons. Florian, the youngest sowne of Barlamont, to his brother Mons. de Hierges, wherin he writeth that he thincketh how that the Prince hath some forther thinge in hande then to victall the town of Ziricksea, and that they of Ziricksea have ostentated ther herde cattel uppon the rampars of the towne to ther ennemyes in such sorte that he thincketh that they are not so nighe to winne the towne as they thought to winne it.

As Capptain Barthlet was sent for to come from Dordrecht unto him at his goinge forthe, some Wallons cast egges shelles at him, where uppon some of M<sup>r</sup> Bartheletes company shot at them and hurt and killed a cupple of them, which Mons. Nevelde was not offended with all, because the others mysused the Englishmen.

<sup>1</sup> They were to given to the spoyle that the let they gates open.

The 21, newes came unto the Prince that at Ingenhill the ennemye is so shutt in by the Count of Hollache and Collonell Hellin that they are in despayre of doinge any thinge good, and, being in necessitie of victalles, they offre to serve the Princee and to give over them selves. The Princee wroote agayne the same daye that, if they were sure of the extreme necessitie of ther ennemyes, they should not make conditions with them, but that they should receive them as permittinge them selves unto his pardon without further conditions. This iland appertayneth unto the Princee, and 40,000 florins might he well have of this iland yearly, his garrisons payed.

Newes came from Bartel Entes that he is in Friesland and hath taken a towne ther of great consequence; he hath about 5,000 men.

The 21, departed M<sup>r</sup> Carleill, at which tyme I would departe and could not for other ordre taken; for a billet was sent unto the searchers that none should depart but M<sup>r</sup> Carleill and his company, and, whereas Philippe was comprehended in M<sup>r</sup> Carleill his passport by name, by another billet he was excepted, as I perceaved for Martin Frolick his matter.

The 22, being with Lucas Moyard, I understoode the aunswere the Princee were minded to give us. He told me, emongst other thinges, that the peace was for certayne made and that the Duke Casimir should have 20,000 francken in stipende of the King yearly, and that he had written letters unto the Princee and the Estates that he were a comminge with his armye towards Flanders, that they would demande of the Queen Majestie to grant licences to be permitted unto them in England, which should goe for Flanders and Spayne; for Spayne they will give our merchantes leave to conveighe over goodes englishe freely, yea all other gooddes, so that they be ther owne, that ther lie four commissioners out of Holland here.

The 22, at Flusshinge was taken a boye which would have sett certayne houses a fire there.

The 22, the Princee sent a dove towards Ziricksea to advertise them of this enterprise in hande.

The 23, 24, 25, I spake with His Excellence. The 24, I dined with him and, as before dinner so afterdinner, I spake verie longe with His Excellence. He denyed not that he had sent unto Mons. le Due and did not doubt but he would make some impression into the countrey. He added that Her Majestie was contented that they should handle with the Ducq. He would have the Merchantes Adventurers to give somewhat unto him by way of assurances, and so all thinges might goo well forward. The 25, he departed towards his shippes and Ziricksea, promissinge me that he would send me out of the shippes my dispatche. The same daye, he sent Mons. de S<sup>t</sup>-Aldegonde unto me to declare that it should not be necessarie for me to come as then unto him, as I had promysed the night before, because that he had received the aunswere of the Estates and had sent it them agayne by Aldegonde to write further.



The 26, came Mr Erswick to Middelburch; he had bene fourtien dayes in the waye and came from Calleys towards Dunckercke, and so by Flanders to the Sluce.

When I dined with the Prince the 24, he told me that he had receaved newes how that the Tureke had delivered the King of Fesse a battayle with 150,000 men and that he had taken the towne of Fesse. The pasha which wonne Goletta, had obtayned this victorie.

The 27, being at Army, we saw, about four of the clocke, all the Princes shippes under sayle and shute of moche, at which tyme they approached nigh the head of Ziricksea, especially the *Job Johnson* wherein was the Admirall Boysett. The fight endured untill none of the clocke in the night. The Admirall beate the ennemy from his fort; but, wheras he lacked water to make other shippes to seconde him, about 9 of the clocke, the ennemyes retourned to the fort and beganne to shute of and soncke the Admirall in so muche that he, not being mynded to departe from the shippe, when the shippe fell towards the forte, he, not myndinge to render him selves, was drowned withall. Capptain Dhoy escaped away before thes newes came. The 28 in the morninge, about 5 of the clocke, the Prince his shippes were all under there sayles, but the Prince retourned the same night towards La Vere with all his enseignes <sup>1</sup>.

The 27, came Salisbury to Middelborow with the peace of France printed.

The 28, came a messenger from Bartel Entes unto Middelborow with good newes which he would not open before he had spoken with His Excellence.

The 29, I sent a cupple of letters into England by Philipp, the one to sir Thomas Smithe, the other to Mr Wilson.

The 30, I dined with His Excellence, and so did Mr Beal : at lengthe he promysed to sende me my aunswere the same daye. Mr Erswicke, not desired, did likewyse sett downe at dinner with the Prince.

The last of maye, Callvart brought M. Beale and my letters for to sende into Englande and certayne aunsweres.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 251.)

<sup>1</sup> Voici en quels termes Roda résume les nouvelles reçues de Zélande :

Les rebelles ont de nouveau essayé de secourir Zierikzée: comme les retranchements de l'armée royale étaient plus forts et qu'elle était plus nombreuse que l'autre fois, ils n'osèrent pas les attaquer; ils passèrent par le canal entre Sainte-Anneland et Duyveland, vinrent prendre position entre Sainte-Anneland et Philipsland, jetèrent des gens en terre et commencèrent tout de suite la construction d'un fort, tandis qu'une autre partie de leur flotte allait par le canal entre Thole et Rommerswael en faire autant. Les gens du roi accoururent en diligence de tous côtés et la repoussèrent avec perte de beaucoup des leurs. Roda, qui était à Anvers, fit en sorte qu'en grande hâte une compagnie d'Allemands qui venait d'Alost, celle qu'on tira de Goes, cent arquebusiers du comte Annibal et la compagnie de la garde d'arquebusiers à cheval qui allaient avec une escorte, marchassent vers les îles, et il obtint du comte Annibal qu'il y envoyât aussi deux de ses compagnies qui étaient près de Bois-le-Duc, de sorte que, si les ennemis ne s'étaient bien vite retirés, on leur aurait fait payer plus cher encore leur audace. (GACHARD, *Correspondance de Philippe II*, t. IV, p. 126.)

## MMCXLVIII.

*Calcart à Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 3 MAI 1576.)

Il espère que Walsingham ne négligera rien afin que la reine accueille favorablement les explications du prince d'Orange. — Mort de l'amiral Louis Boisot.

Monsieur, Encores que peult-estre la response que Son Excellence fait sur les complaints de Mons<sup>r</sup> Beel, ne vous donnera de prime face entier contentement, si espèrè-je bien qu'icelle estant considérée de plus près et examinée par vous sans y apporter auleun préjudice, non-seulement sera trouvée raysonnable au temps et nécessité où nous sommes, mais aussy tâcherez à la faire trouver bonne aux aultres et empescherez les desseins de ceulx qui la voudroient interpréter ou faire goutter aultrement à Sa Majesté. De cela se confie Son Excellence entièrement en vous, et aussi l'en ay-je bien osé asseurer pour l'entière affection que j'ay cogneue et sçay que vous portez à ceste cause qui n'est pas la nostre particulièrement, mais appartient à tous ceux qui font profession de la religion chrestienne, chose que je m'asseure plus que toute aultre vous induira à tenir la bonne main à ce que l'intention de Son Excellence estant interprétée de bonne part, Sa Majesté s'encline aussi favorablement au résidu de ses requestes, mesmement asteur que plus que jamais, veu nostre nécessité, elle en a occasion et que Son Excellence, s'exposant journellement avec ce pays à tant de dangers et hasards, ne sert de peu à la tranquillité et repos de son royaume.

Au reste, Monsieur, je vous diray avec regret que le 27 du passé Mons<sup>r</sup> l'Amiral, estant dans une navire de 600 tonneaux, secondé d'une aultre presque de pareille grandeur, comme yl pensoit favoriser la descente de nos gens de guerre, n'estant secourru de ceux de dedans, comme pour le signal donné nous attendions bien, et ne pouvant à cause de la grandeur du corps de sa navire démarrer comme eust esté de besoing, receut sur le soir, à la faveur d'un . . . . qui avoit embrasé troix de nos heues eschouées, tant et un si grand nombre de cannonades que finalement sur la minuit sadite navire, entreouverte et percée à jour de tous costés, demoura en moins de rien ensevelie sous les ondes, non sans perte de grand nombre de gens de bien et entre autres dudit sieur Amiral, qui se fût sauvé facilement, si dès lors que l'on se commençoit à se douter d'un si grand malheur, yl eust voulu suivre le conseil d'aucuns de sa suite et non point tant s'opiniâtrer contre une chose où il n'y avoit point de remède. Or, du défaut de ceux de dedans, ne sçavons encores l'occasion, sinon que l'on se doute que le pigeon

renvoïé pour les avertir auroit peu estre tiré en passant, au moien de quoy pourroient avoïr esté ignorans du temps de nostre entreprinse.

Hier entra en ladite ville un de nos capitaines qui y a porté avec luy force pigeons domestiques, si que nous espérons d'avoir ce jourd'hui response d'une aultre entreprinse à laquelle nous espérons que Dieu donnera meilleure issue qu'à la précédente. Je vous advertiray particulièrement de ce qui en aviendra, sachant que vous n'attendez le secours de ladite ville en pire dévotion que nous-mesmes, qui, pour avoir expérimenté souvent l'assistance du Seigneur, lorsque l'on estoit à l'extrême, sommes encores en fort bonne espérance.

Au surplus, Monsieur, pour ce que Dieu a donné quelque commencement de paix en France, et qu'il y a bien long temps que ma femme est hors de sa maison, je suis délibéré de l'y faire retourner à la première commodité pour mettre ordre à quelques petis affaires que nous y avons, qui est cause que je vous supplie bien humblement la voulloir favoriser d'un tel passeport que avec son petit train et meubles de toute sorte et nature, comme joyaux, un peu de vaisselle d'argent et choses semblables, elle puisse sortir hors du royaume sans auleun empeschement ou facherie. Cela augmentera les obligations que j'ay eu de tout temps à vous faire service et auquel, Monsieur, je vous supplie de croire que je me suis délié tellement qu'il n'y aura jour de ma vie que je ne m'y emploie, non pas en parolles, mais par les effets, quant il vous plaira me commander aulcune chose, encores que je voys bien (ce que suis marry de vous dire) qu'aucuns en ont conceu toute aultre opinion, mais à tort, et mesmes en choses de telle conséquence que je ne voudrois au prys de mon sang que ce dont yls me taxent, fût tant seulement en partie véritable : ce que cognoit Dieu auquel, après vous avoir baisé les mains et m'estre recommandé bien humblement à vos bonnes grâces, je prieray vous avoir, Monsieur, en sa protection et sauvegarde.

De Middelburg, ce 3<sup>me</sup> de may 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 766.)

### MMMCXLIX.

#### *Daniel Rogers au prince d'Orange.*

(DELFT, 3 MAI 1576.)

Il réclame une réponse précise à diverses requêtes de la reine.

Plaise à Vostre Excellence d'escrire à ceulx de l'Admiraultie de Vlissingen qu'ils facent ung fin de l'affaire touchant la navire *le Christ*. Vostre Excellence sçait comme

cest navire a esté perdu par ceulx de Vlissingen devant ung année : il est doneq temps de faire restitution ; s'ils n'ont poinct moyen de faire une totale restitution de ce qu'estoit en ladite navire, qu'ils facent restitution de moytié et donnent leur obligation pour le reste.

Et d'autant que Sa Majesté a escript à Vostre Excellence concernant l'affaire des Martins d'Excestre, je supplie Vostre Excellence d'escrire à ceulx de ladite Amiraulté qu'ils se montrent plus raisonnable devers lesdits Martins qu'ils n'ont point encores esté.

Sa Majesté escripvoit le mois de mars à ceulx de Vlissingen pour ung navire appelé l'*Henry de Londres*, transporté par force à Vlissingen de les Dunes en allant devers l'Espagne ; Sa Majesté requiert que restitution soit faicte : plaira donc à Vostre Excellence de toucher cest affaire en vostre lettre.

Sa Majesté, par ses lettres envoyés à Vostre Excellence, demande que la reste de la compagnie de Dame Lucretia soyent mis en liberté : qu'il plaise doneq à Vostre Excellence d'escrire à ceulx de Walehren touchant l'intention d'icelle <sup>1</sup>.

Monsieur Herbert demande congé de partir devers Angleterre ; il a esté envoyé de Sa Majesté à Vostre Excellence et a esté détenu longtemps en Zélande contre sa volonté ; il supplie à Vostre Excellence qu'il ne soit plus oultre détenu.

Enfin je supplie que Vostre Excellence commande à ceulx de laditte Amiraulté d'aller rondement avecq moy sans faire tant de délais et cavillations, comme ils font journellement avecq les Anglois, affin que je puisse avoir d'occasion de faire tant plus favorable relation à Sa Majesté d'eulx à mon retour.

Quant au reste, je supplie le Créateur donner à Vostre Excellence, en santé, longue vie et bon succès en vos affaires.

De Delft, le 5 de maye 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 768.)

<sup>1</sup> Elisabeth s'empessa d'intervenir en faveur de la fiancée de l'ambassadeur de Portugal, mais le gouverneur de Zélande mit peu d'empressement à lui rendre la liberté. « Ce n'est qu'une femme, » disait-il ; ses parents sont mes ennemis ; et les instances que fait la reine d'Angleterre en sa faveur, » donnent lieu de penser qu'elle n'est pas favorable à notre cause. »

« Flessingue, écrivait lord Burleigh, est un nid de pirates ou pis encore : leurs cruautés les rendent » odieux à toute la chrétienté. »

Telle fut l'indignation d'Élisabeth qu'elle avait donné l'ordre de retenir comme otages les députés des États de Hollande jusqu'à ce qu'il eût été fait droit aux plaintes de lady Lucrezia « la dame de » noces » comme on l'appelait.

MMMCL.

*Mémoire du prince d'Orange.*

(7 MAI 1576.)

Griefs des Zélandais contre les marins anglais.

*Copie de l'escrit que Monseigneur le Prince d'Oranges délivra au Sieur Beale, envoié de par le Conseil de Sa Majesté.*

Quoyque les habitans des pays de Hollande et Zeelande aient bien souvent fait grosses complainctes et doléances des tors et dommaiges receus en diverses sortes par les subjects de Sa Majesté, Monseigneur le Prince d'Oranges n'en a toutesfois voulu fascher Sa Majesté, mais l'a mieux aymé endurer en patience, espérant que Sa Majesté, voiant l'entière affection qu'il a tousjours porté et porte encores au très-humble service de Sa Majesté, y mettroit d'elle-mesmes le remède convenable avecq le temps.

Mais, puisque le Sieur Baele, envoié de par le Conseil de Sa Majesté, a instamment requis qu'on luy en fit quelque déclaration, Son Excellence a bien voulu faire recueillir quelques points entre les autres les plus remarquables et dont la mémoire en est encores fresche, non pas tant pour s'en plaindre comme pour les faire servir de justification des choses passées et de déclaration au principal escrit que Son Excellence et les Estats de pardeçà ont exhibé audict Sieur Baele.

Suppliant Sa Majesté le vouloir prendre de bonne part et y avoir bénin et convenable regard, selon que l'équité et justice le requiert.

*S'ensuivent les complainctes de ceux de Hollande et Zéelande contre aucuns subjects de Sa Majesté.*

L'an 1572, aians aucuns marchans de ces pays chargé, dans ung navire de La Rochelle, en laquelle estoit maistre François Talmant, certaine quantité de laynes, fer et achier jusques à la valeur de bien trente mil florins, comme appert par les cargasons et charte-parties desdictes marchandises, ladicte navire, arrivant à Portsmuyen, après y avoir païé les droits et coustumes ordinaires et deschargé partie desdictes laynes dans aucunes bareques dudict lieu, fut par le Capitaine Holstock, lors en mer par le commandement de Monsieur l'Admiral, arrestée et prinse, et, quelque poursuyte que ledict Talmant et autres en aient sceu faire tant envers Sa Majesté que Messieurs de son

Conseil, sy est-ce qu'on n'a seeu obtenir restitution, mais est ladiete navire et marchandises demourée entre les mains de Monsieur l'Admiral, Capitaine Holstock et quelques autres.

La mesme année, ung nommé Bartres, commandant sur une frégatte qui appartenoit à M<sup>r</sup> George, pensionnaire de Sa Majesté, print et envahit une navire de Vlissinghes, chargée de xxvij mil livres de bois de Brésil, appartenant à Jehan Vaillant, de Middelbourg, aiant lors sa résidence à Vlissingues, et, l'ayant mené en l'île Wicht et deschargé lesdicts bois dans ung chasteau appartenant à Sa Majesté, le vendit finalement à ung marchand de Santon, nommé maistre Ling, sans que pour aucune poursuyte du monde restitution en ait peu estre obtenue.

L'an 1573, aiant Son Excellence fait équiper cinq navires de guerre et sur icelles donné commandement au capitayne Olivier, avecq charge de quelque exploit d'importance au pays mesmes de l'ennemy, comme lediet Capitaine par faute de vent fut constraint se contenir quelque temps entre Douvres et Calais, et ce pendant il eut fait sur les ennemis plusieurs prises de la valeur de bien cent mil florins, aucuns capiteines de Mons<sup>r</sup> l'Admiral, en aians ouï les nouvelles, firent de sorte par belles parolles et soubz ombre d'amitié que lediet Capitaine Olivier entra en leur bord, où, le détenans avecq violence, le constraignirent et forcèrent de mectre ses navires de guerre et marchandises susdictes entre leurs mains, ce qu'ayant esté fait par lediet Capiteyne pour sauver sa vie, furent lesdicts navires et marchandises premièrement par eux pillées et débaratées et finalement menées devant Groenwyche, maison royalle de Sa Majesté, et, quelque remonstrance que de ce ait peu estre faite tant envers Sa Majesté que Conseillers d'icelle, sont néantmoins lesdicts navires de guerre et marchandises susdictes demourées au pouvoir dudiet seigneur Admiral et Capiteynes, demourant Son Excellence (oultre l'empeschement que par la violence susdicte faiete à ses navires fut mis à son desseing et entreprinse) endommaigée plus de cent cinquante mil florins.

La mesme année, pour aucunes debtes prétendues par ung certain Thomas Cuol et autres de Santwyche, montantes toutes ensemble à la somme de iiij<sup>e</sup> xv liv. sterling, comme appert par l'accord qui fut finalement fait entre les parties, fut, par exemple non jamais ouï et contre l'entrecours qui est entre Angleterre et ces pays, accordé par l'Admiraulté d'Angleterre ung arrest général sur toutes les navires de Hollande et Zéelande, lequel arrest aiant esté mis en exécution, demourèrent xxvij navires en nombre (nonobstant toutes diligences et poursuytes) arrestés environ l'espace de sept mois, si que ung si grand nombre de povres gens furent endommaigés et intéressés de plus de huit mil livres sterling, à la ruyné et désolation de la plus grande partie d'iceux.

L'an 1574, aiant Son Excellence équipé une frégatte bien armée et donné la charge au Capiteyne Cornille pour cherser nouvelles de la flotte espaignolle que l'on acten-

doit, icelle frégate estant par tempeste jectée ès environs de Jermouth, fut à l'improviste hostilement envahie et pillée, le Capiteyne et ses gens mis en chemise par aucuns qui estoient serviteurs domestiques du Vice-admiral Woddes, et comme le Capiteyne en poursuivoit la restitution à Londres par voie de justice, à la requeste des gens dudict Woddes (comme depuis est apparu) fut mis en action, et depuis en prison estroite par le Sieur Acerbo Vellutelli, où il a demouré en grande misère et calamité l'espace presque d'ung an, qu'il en sortit en paiant les despens.

La mesme année, furent en ung coup pillées auprès de La Rye trois navires d'Enchuysen, chargées de bleds, toilles et autres marchandises, lesquelles furent assez publiquement vendues èsdiets lieux, et n'a de cela peu estre obtenu quelque raison, justice, ny restitution, encores que la chose fût si notoire que ceux qui avoient fait la prinse, et aussi achatté, estoient assez congneus, de sorte que, outre les despens de la poursuyte qu'on fit avecq toute diligence et grans fraits, les marchans d'Enchuysen furent intéressés plus de xv<sup>e</sup> liv. sterling.

L'an 1575, un navire de guerre appartenant au fils de Milord Admiral print deux navires chargés de vin de Rhin, qui fut deschargé en une maison que le fils dudict sieur a sur le bord de la mer, montans lesdiets vins à plus de mil liv. sterling, sans que le marchand, pour quelque poursuyte qu'il en ait secu faire, en ait obtenu restitution.

La mesme année, fut pillée par aucuns Anglois un navire d'Enchuysen venant d'Espagne, et, combien que ladiete navire ait esté trouvée entre les mains des serviteurs de Monsieur l'Admiral et qu'il soit notoire qu'il ait prins ladiete navire et qu'il en a eu le prouffict, sy est-ce que, nonobstant toute poursuyte, il ne s'en est ensuivi aucune restitution dudict navire et marchandises qui estoient de la valeur de xv<sup>m</sup> florins.

La mesme année, un Capiteyne, nommé Du Bul et qui estoit sorti du havre de Mons-Bay, pilla un flybot appartenant à Denys de Vissehere, lequel, avecq les marchandises qui en furent ostées, comme apparoist par attestation de notaire, valloit outre de quatre mil florins.

La mesme année, fut pillée un autre navire de ce pays par aucuns qu'on diet estre serviteurs du Vice-admiral Woddes, et de fait furent trouvés les biens dudict navire entre les mains d'aucuns des siens, sans qu'on en ait peu obtenir aucune restitution.

Le mesmes Woddes détient entre ses mains bonne partie d'artillerie qui estoit sur un navire que Son Excellence envoya pour la conduite de Monsieur de Lorges qui s'en alloit en Angleterre, et eschoua près de Lestaff, sans que pour diligence qu'on a secu faire l'on en ait peu avoir quelque raison.

Ce sont en gros une partie des plainctes que d'une infinité d'autres Son Excellence a bien voullu avoir mis par escrit, s'assurant que Sa Majesté et Messieurs de son Con-

seil par la lecture d'iceux trouveront que les habitans de ces quartiers ont juste occasion de se douloir et plaindre, et que Sa Majesté et son Conseil feront de sorte que restitution de ce que dessus sera faicte, comme aussi Son Excellence espère de mesme que Sa Majesté et Messieurs de son Conseil empescheront que doresnavant aucun arrest général ou particulier se fache, si ce n'est pour raisons grandes et après reffus de justice, selon l'ordre que donne l'entrecours en semblables affaires, moins que Sa Majesté permettra à aucun quelque forme de représailles, si ce n'est pas pour cause qui les octroie.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 802.)

MMCLI.

*Le Conseil d'État à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(BRUXELLES, 9 MAI 1576.)

Ils ont chargé Davison d'exprimer à la reine le désir du Conseil d'État d'entretenir de bonnes relations d'amitié avec la reine d'Angleterre.

Très-haulte, très-excellente et très-puissante Princesse, Ayant Messire Guillaume Davison nous faict entendre qu'il estoit révoqué vers Vostre Majesté, avons bien voulu l'accompagner de ce peu de mots nostres pour la remercier, comme remercions bien humblement, du bon office qu'elle a voullu faire par luy, et prions vouloir continuer en sa bonne affection et volonté jà par nous cogneue et rafreschie par ledict Davison, et par sa grande prudence vouloir considérer qu'il n'a esté en nous de avoir seeu pour encoires luy donner aultre response sur ce qu'il est venu nous proposer, d'aautant que, quand il est arrivé icy, il y avoit peu de temps que le Grand-Commandeur de Castille estoit decédé, si que le Roy nostre maistre ne nous avoit encoires mandé son bon vouloir; et ledict Davison pourra tesmoigner à Vostre Majesté que pendant son séjour pardeçà il n'y a venu courrier de Sa Majesté Catholique. Au demeurant, Vostre Majesté pourra s'asseurer que de nostre costé ne s'obmectra chose que cognoistrons pouvoir servir à l'entretènement des anciennes et bonnes amitié, intelligences et voisinage qu'il y a entre Vos Majestés, et que ce nous sera singulier plaisir nous veoir employer en choses de son service et contentement, comme ledict Davison a bien voulu à nostre prière s'en-charger référer plus amplement de nostre part à Vostre Majesté, à la suffisance et intégrité du quel nous remettans, baiscrons pour fin de ceste bien humblement les mains



réginales de Vostre Majesté, et supplierons le Créateur octroyer à icelle, très-haute, très-excellente et très-puissante Princesse, très-bonne, longue et heureuse vie.

De Bruxelles, le ix<sup>e</sup> jour de may 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 775.)

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MMCLII.

*Sebert à Davison.*

(BRUXELLES, 9 MAI 1576.)

Démarche en faveur de quelques Anglais prisonniers.

(Record office, Cal., n° 775.)

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MMCLIII.

*Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(VERS LE 40 MAI 1576)

Opérations militaires en Zélande.

Ter Toelen-Landt and S<sup>t</sup>-Annen-Lant were the had . . . . and too cutt ye dytche in twoo places; but, ere they ha . . . , they were sett upon by Mondragon, beinge accom- pagned with . . . . Spanyardes and Wallons, besydes ye Dutches and Wallons, yt . . . . in yt land in guarryson. At ye first charge, they we . . . . . backe, which made the Gwessys so courragious yt they per . . . . them, forsakinge their fort, not fearinge other inconvenient insewe thereof, as did for yt they were backed by . . . . insignes of Span- niardes and Wallons yt cam from Barrowe . . . . and other places there aboutes, which com on so speedelye [that they] tooke ye forte, and so the Gewssys, beinge invyronned of [all] sydes, were forced to flye to their shippes, with [loss] of many men. There were slayn at that conliete . . . . 400 or 500 of all sydes. Ye Gewssys yt were la . . . , were vij insignes, beinge Englishe men and Scottes, besydes three . . . pyoners. There at ye same none takyn, but one Ing[lish capi]tayn, beinge a tall man of personage, and is deteyned . . . . in S<sup>t</sup>-Annen-Landt in ye captayne his howse.

The forte that was begonne by ye Gewsys . . . . makinge up by ye Kinges men, and are daylye at . . . . 58 or 60 pyonners, and the dytches . . . . begonne too be cut owte are agayne fylled and rep[aired].

Zirikse is stronglye besett on all sydes so as yt is un . . . . yt any succour can come. They beginne to caste a me . . . . as neere to ye towne as they can, and meane from . . . . to sehute wyldre fyre into ye towne, soo to fyre yt. They have also made sondrye bridges of greate thi[cke] plancke to cast into ye ryver that passeth to the T . . . ., meaninge to sett men so over and to trye weth[er] . . . . can enter the towne, whyle yt wilbe on fyre. There are also makinge a bulwarke nerer ye t[owne] then they had any, and purpose from thence to beate . . . . a bulwarke of ye towne that greatlye annoyeth . . . . They of ye towne doo continuallye shute at the . . . . rers and spoyle most of them, as is thought they . . . . that bulwarke so stronglye as yt can not be possi[ble to] beate yt downe.

The 5<sup>th</sup> of this present there entred into Ziriksee abo[ut] 8 or 10 small boates with victualls by night, and c . . . . the villages yt lye in water, praetysed as yt th . . . . by ye townes men. There be three paysantes taken . . . . are thought to be of them that conveyed the same . . . .

Mondragon is in a greate rage with him selfe yt be . . . . not better forsee yt in yt respecte.

They of ye towne, on sondaye last in ye might . . . . owte a small hoye (which was devyseyd with powder, fe . . . ., straw and suche lyke ware apte to burne and set a fyre), and no men in hir, but was soo[w]rought with fy . . . . yt the should within certayn tyme be in fyre . . . . should and carryed hir downe too the pyles and strenghts that is made at the entraunce of ye heade, were there lye chayned certayn flatt vessells, and there should have sett them a fyre and burnt awaye ye heyght of ye pyles, but the wynde beinge large dryve her on a flatt were she was burnt by ye devysey. The hoole campe were at this feate in armes woundinge to see ye same burne and none to leape owte of hir, but thought they had byn all killed with ye shott of ye ordinance yt ye fortes in the passinge by shutt at hir.

There was on sondaye last a trompeter sent owte of ye towne with a letter to Mondragon with conditions of agreement to yelde ye towne, so farre fourth as three persons might salffelye goo too the Prynce and then to yeld in lyke sorte as he yelded to the Prynce Middelborrowe.

This trompeter beinge com to the heade was there wel receavyd of ye Spanyardes whoe, byndinge first a cloth abowt his eyes, led him soo blynded to Mondragon (demaunding by ye way nombers of questyons), whoe usyd him gentlye, received ye letre, hard his tayle and then suffred him to retourne, promysinge he woulde sent presently to Counsell and afterwarde send their answeere.

The meane while, whylest this trompetter was on his message, they of ye towne drawe about ye walles a number of cattel as oxen, thyme, sheepe, horses and suche lyke as they had, to th'end the ennemy might sic how they were yett furnyshed, and was judged to be neere a hundreth beastes in all.

They have alonge ye dytches from ye niew head unto the town of Ziricksee made two foote pathes on eche syde of ye dytches, where there are divers scout watches and solgiars all alonge to be sure yt none steale owt of ye towne.

They looke dailye for more solgiars in ye campe and pyoners.

Every night, there goeth about ye dytches from forte to forte and to all suche plaecys as they stande in dowbte of ye ennemy a greate watche accompagnyed wyth pykemen and shott under ye conduete of somme speecyall captayn.

Besydes alonge ye townes is great schowt watches every night of ye licht horsemen.

There lye harde before ye niew heade and soo alonge ye townes, rydinge at anker 50 sayle of Gewssys, allsoo 50 sayle at ye other syde where they attempted to cutt ye pyles, and is looked for certaintye yt they will once agayne make tryall what can be donne at theis tydes which now fall owt this weeke <sup>1</sup>.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. IV, n° 150.*)

<sup>1</sup> A ce document se trouve jointe la note suivante sur les forces des Espagnols en Zélande :

In Tertoele, auncyentes of . . . . .	
In a forte betwene Tertoele and S <sup>t</sup> Anne-Landt called S <sup>t</sup> Martens-Dyke . . . . .	1 auncyent.
In S <sup>t</sup> Anne-Landt . . . . .	2 auncyentes.
In ye bulwarkes of Scarpen-Woet and S <sup>t</sup> Michels-Dyke . . . . .	1 insigne of . . .
In Vyanden . . . . .	1 insigne.
In Niewekerken . . . . .	2 insignes of . . .
In Owerkerken . . . . .	1 insigne of . . .
Alonge the dykes by a sluys . . . . .	1 insigne of . . .
On ye niew-heade . . . . .	2 insignes of Wallons.
On ye fortes made by ye dytches . . . . .	2 insignes of Wallons.
In ye two fortes by ye gallowes . . . . .	2 insignes Spaniards.
On ye dytches betwene the towne and Hembstede in ye two fortes . . . . .	1 insigne $\frac{1}{2}$ Spaniards.
In Hembstede . . . . .	2 insignes $\frac{1}{2}$ Spaniards.
In Renissen by ye townes, and 60 light horsemen . . . . .	1 insigne Wallons.
In Browsershaven . . . . .	2 insignes Spaniards.
In ye fortes before Browsershaven . . . . .	2 insignes Wallons.
In Bommene . . . . .	2 insignes Wallons.
In Driesolen waer Mondraghon lyeth . . . . .	2 insignes Wallons.
Yet on ye heade of Dryesselen . . . . .	1 insigne Wallons.
Yet in ye forte betwene ye towne and Dryessellen . . . . .	1 insigne $\frac{1}{2}$ Spaniards.
Hardeby ye pyles in a forte . . . . .	2 insignes Spaniards.

## MMMCLIV.

*Antonio de Guaras au Conseil d'État.*

(LONDRES, 12 MAI 1576.)

Réclamation d'un marchand anglais nommé Thomas Allen.

*(Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles, Papiers de l'Audience, liasse 159.)*

## MMMCLV.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh.*

(18 MAI 1576.)

Nouvelles de Zélande et de Hollande. — Ouverture secrète faite par Buys et Ortel.

I have, Mi right honorable good Lord, received this mornynge ij lettres of on date from Andwarp and Bruxelles, that Zurycksea is revyctaylled, which hath stroken a great damp into ye Cowncell at Bruxelles, and moved verey muche ye rest of ye catholiques there, for hereby their projectes ar quite alltred, and their credite and forces grettly shaken. The attempt was by the Princes people grown on sonday last, havng armed certain vesselles for this purpose, which with a good wynde approching to their bullwarkes, had gotten ye advantaige to be under ye shott of the grett ordynance of th'enemye and then from the toppes of their shippes (which they had made grett and large purposelie deffenced with corek and other mater agayn the musquett shott) they with bases and small peces to beit them from their plateformes and from the use of their owne ordinans wherby they had ye opportunitye to breke ye great cheynes and to send what they voted into ye towne.

The matter of Muyden and Dymmer-dyke is of grett ymportance; for, yf Your Lordship vouchsave to loke once more into your charte of Holland, you shall fynde yt, by cutting ye sayd dyke, that the Zudersea shalbe browght into ye contrey, and so consequently into ye Harlames-Meere, by which Mere ye Prynces navye yt is in North-

Holland, and is far superyor to ani sea forces yt ye King of Spayne hath to yncounter with them, may seclude Amsterdam and Harlem from all ayde and vittail, and so easely becom masters of them, for ye King hath no way to releve them, yf this advantaige be well preserved.

Yff it might plesse Your Lordship to consyder somewhat further of your letter yt I showed you, yt Powll Buis and Ortell wrytt me, there might be somewhatt entertayned to ye good service of Her Majestie and to ye taking away of ye stomack yt ovr adversaries have, and for ye generall staye fall spoyles yt otherwise might anoye us and all our neighbors, upon which most humbly I take my leve.

From Redcrosse street in haste, ye 13 of maye 1576.

(*British Museum, Lansdown, 25, n° 71.*)

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MMCLVI.

*Ordre du Conseil pour la répression des pirates.*

(19 MAI 1576.)

Ordre est donné à Henri Palmer de poursuivre sévèrement tous les délits de piraterie.

(*British Museum, Harley, 168, n° 14.*)

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MMCLVII.

*Le Conseil privé à Robert Beale.*

(GREENWICH, 27 MAI 1576.)

Il l'engage à ne point retourner en Angleterre sans avoir réussi dans les démarches dont il est chargé pour faire restituer aux marchands anglais leurs biens saisis en Zélande.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 787.*)

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## MMMCLVIII.

*Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(ANVERS, 27 MAI 1576.)

Assassinat de l'ambassadeur de Danemark. — Suite du siège de Zierickzee.

The Embassatour of the King of Denmark called D. Knobbret, being sent unto the States of this contrey, was slayen by theves within a mile of Loven and robbed of the vallue of 5000 dollars, and ye 23 of this present he was buried at Loven very honorably as to such a man did appertayne.

From Siricksea we can here nothing but that by water ther can come no vittayles to the King's camp that lieth befor it : if they could stop it by land also, the warres would soon be at an end.

*(British Museum, Titus, B. VI.)*

## MMMCLIX.

*Robert Beale au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBURG, 29 MAI 1576.)

Mort de l'Amiral Boisot. — Situation critique des Gueux; ils négocient avec les Français.

It may please Your Honour, I have receaved Thers Lordships letters of the x<sup>th</sup> of this present by M<sup>r</sup> Erdsawick wherto I can answer no more then I did advertise Your Honour before by M<sup>r</sup> Carlile; for the ii days, by which I was promised to have my answer, have ben differred hitherto by reason of the enterprise of Siericksea and the Prince's absence there, where they have had but a bade begining.

Their intencion was to have beaten with small shotte out of two great hulkes the enemy from his bulwarek, which he had at the entrance of the water going to the towne, whereof one of this being the greater at first approche did veary valiantly; but, the 27 of this present at night being on ground was by great shott struck by the enemy, and the Admirall Boiscott drowned with the losse of 500 mariners of our english Flus-

hingers and 200 soldiers beside those which are returned hurt and maymed, there were also at the same time burnt with wild fier, and saineke iij others of the Prince hoyes. Thereuppon the floete is returned some what amased, and yet they saye they mynd not to give over the enterprisy so, but thinck by cutting of the dike to be able to nettle the towne, and, after some litle refreshing of their soldiers here, to attempt the mater ones againe. Others thincke they shall not be able to prevayle, for that the enemy is veary strong and mervelously entrenched, and these forces, being not above xx ensignes, have neither skilfull leaders, nor obedient soldiers, and, of divers of these bands being landed, only five companyes stod to yt, whereof ij were Englishe which in this and the last blow have gotten great commendation of the Prince and all the rest.

This daye, the Prince is landed at the Vecre in this island, and, as the Governor telleth me, wilbe here tomorrow, and then I mynd to presse him for an answer wich by reason of his absence uppon the shippes I could not have sithe M<sup>r</sup> Carlile's departure. I pray God send us good success, and that thorowght some discontentement of the successe of their enterprise they waxe not desperate. There welbe, as yt is thought, some what to do about the choise of an new admirall. The mariners desire one of their own, as Wurst was, and no gentilman, which they say the Prince cannot graunt unto, for the reputation of the office, and therefore myndeth to preferr one Treslon gouvernor of the Brill. God send them good successe, but I have litle hope, and am frayd, if the Spaniards gett it and cutt off the entercourse between Holand and Zeland, all will in short time go to wrack. I do what I can (God is my witnes) to gett an answer and to be dispatched; and, when I am earnest with St. Aldegonde about yt, I have no other aunswer but that suche thinges cannot be resolved on so short a time, and I must have suche patience as they had in England. Briefly I see they make no accompt of us, but that they are torned all to Fraunce. I cannot heare that any answer is as yet come from La Garde, and till then I am seerely told now our shippes are not like to be released. This will as they thinck soncr draw on the Frenchman both for the baten and that herby they shalbe assured that they have no dealings with any other. When I shall have received any answer from the Prince, I will not fayle to send yt as soon as I can. The restraint contineweth still not to depart hence, but only this night certain victuallers boats, which for the hope of their retorne to relieve there necessities are suffered to go home. If this peace of France, whereof they seamed to be exceeding gladd, bring not some innovation in the Low-Countries to their benefit, it wilbe in the judgement of many hard for them to stand long. More I have not worth writing at this present, and therefore thus humbly take my leave.

From Middelbourg, the xxix<sup>th</sup> of may.

(*British Museum, Addit. mss., 5955, fol. 44.*)

## MMMCLX.

*Le prince d'Orange à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(CAMPVEER, 31 MAI 1576.)

Il lui adresse un mémoire qui servira de justification aux marins de la Zélande.

Madame, Le porteur de cestes Sieur Robert Beale m'a apporté une lettre de la part des sieurs du Conseil de Vostre Majesté. Et après avoir communiqué le tout à ceux des Estats et de l'Admiraulté de pardeçà et entendu leurs advis, avons en forme de responce dressé ung petit escript, contenant les raisons et l'ordre des occurences passées, supplians très-humblement Vostre Majesté qu'il luy plaise y avoir béning regard, en considération de l'urgente nécessité qui nous presse, et de la justice, équité et importance de la cause que menons, et s'asseurer que rien ne s'est passé qui ait aucunement diminué la bonne et entière affection et zèle qu'avons au très-humble service d'icelle : lequel continuans et nous dédians attendrons en toute humilité qu'il plaise à Vostre Majesté nous honorer de ses commandemens.

Madame, Je baisera sur cest endroict très-humblement les mains de Vostre Majesté, priant Dieu qu'il la vueille conserver et maintenir en sa protection, et vous donner, Madame, en parfaite santé, vie très-heureuse et longue.

Esript à Camfer, le jour dernier de mai 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 797.)

## MMMCLXI.

*Le prince d'Orange aux membres du Conseil.*

(CAMPVEER, 31 MAI 1576.)

Même objet.

Messieurs, Il y a quelques jours que par le Sieur Robert Beale présent porteur j'ay receu les lettres que m'avez escript, et entendu plus amplement la charge que luy en avez donné touchant, les continuelles plaintes que se font à raison des oultrages que nos gens de guerre feroient sur mer à ceux de pardeçà, et notamment l'arrest depuis naguerres fait sur quelques batteaux des Marchans Aventuriers; et n'eusse failli de



respondre plustost sans les empeschemens qui me sont depuis survenus, et le besoing que j'ay eu d'entendre au ravictuaillement de la ville de Siericxzee ; et, oires que présentement j'en aye bien peu de loysir, si n'ay-je voulu le tenir plus longtems : vous priant de croire que j'ay très-grand desplaisir desdicts plaintes et lamentations, et entends avec regret que les marchans anglois se trouvent molestés ou injuriés des nostres, combien que pourrez veoir par ladiete dépesche les outrages n'estre tels, ni si grands comm'ils ont donné à entendre. Néanmoins, comme aiant longtems pensé et avec les Estats du pays de Zéelande discouru sur les remèdes que l'on y pourroit donner, ne nous sommes peu adviser d'autre plus expédient (eu esgard à l'estat des affaires de présent) que celuy que luy avons donné par escript pour response, d'autant plus que, outre ce que par là le fondement desdicts doléances sera une fois retranché, encor est-ce un moien pour donner quelque contentement à ceux de pardeçà des grands torts dont ils se plaignent. Je vous prie bien affectueusement, Messieurs, que, eu esgard à la justice de nostre cause et au grand fais que soustenons pardeçà pour délivrer ce povre pays d'une tyrannie si injuste, laquelle ne pourroit redonder qu'au grand détrimment de la religion crestienne et mesme de l'estat du royaume d'Angleterre, qu'il luy plaise de grâce spéciale se contenter qu'avec sa bonne grâce le contenu d'icelle puisse estre mis en effect : l'assurant d'ung chemin que tout mon désir et de tous ceux de ces pays est d'estre et demeurer ses très-humbles et très-obéyssans serviteurs, ainsi que plus amplement ay prié audict Beale vous dire de ma part, qui me gardera de m'extendre davantage par ceste, si ce n'est pour vous assurer, Messieurs, de l'entier désir que j'ay à vous faire tout affectionné service, et, me recommandant très-affectueusement en vostre bonne grâce, supplier Dieu vous donner, Messieurs, tout ce que pour vostre salut vous convient.

Esript à Camfer, le dernier jour de may 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 798.)

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## MMCLXII.

### *Le prince d'Orange à lord Burleigh.*

(TEN VERE. 31 MAI 1576.)

Il fera châtier les marins qui ont donné lieu à la plainte du comte d'Oxford.

Monsieur, Il m'a grandement despleu d'entendre par le Sieur Robert Beale l'injure et oultraige que Monsieur le Conte d'Oxford a puis nagaires reçu par certain cappitayne

de mer, se disant estre de ceulx de Flissingues. Et, ne vueillant aucunement tollérer telles insolences, j'y ay incontinent mis tel ordre que quelques-ungs en sont desjà prisonniers. Je ne faudray d'en faire ultérieurement prendre toute bonne et deue information, et, les trouvant coupables d'un faict si outrageulx, je feray pourveoir à tout, de sorte que Monsieur le Conte d'Oxford, vous et tous ceulx qui s'en pourroyent sentir grevés, recepvront occasion de tout bon contentement et verront par effect combien les Estats de ce pays et moy sommes marris que telles indignités soyent commises contre aucun de la nation angloise, n'ayants de tout temps désiré que de faire tout plaisir, amitié et service aux moindres d'icelle. Et me recommandant sur ce bien affectueusement en vostre bonne grâce, je supplieray Dieu vous donner, Monsieur, bonne vie et longue.

Escript à la Were, ce dernier jour de may, l'an 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 799.)

### MMCLXIII.

#### *Le prince d'Orange au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(CAMPVEER, 31 MAI 1576.)

Il réclame spécialement son appui.

Monsieur de Walsingham, Ores que vous pourrez bien particulièrement entendre le tout par le Sieur Robert Beale présent porteur, si est-ce que pour l'entière confiance que j'ay en la bonne affection que avez tousjours portée tant à notre cause en général comme à moy en particulier, j'ay bien voulu vous faire ce mot de lettre à part pour vous prier bien affectueusement de vouloir tenir la bonne main à ce que nostre response soit prinse de bonne part de Sa Majesté : vous assurant que nulle autre chose ne nous y a induict que les raisons y contenues, lesquelles quand vous peserez bien, trouverez estre le moien pour une fois retrancher le fondement de ces continuelles plainctes et doléances, qui ne font qu'enaigrir le cœur de Sa Majesté, et pourroient à la parfin occasioner quelque mal plus grand; et, comme je ne doute pas qu'il en y aura quelques-uns qui tascheront à le luy faire trouver mauvais, et d'autre costé que je sçay le bon crédit qu'avez envers icelle, je vous prie tant plus affectueusement vous y vouloir employer à ce que le désir et entière dévotion qu'avons à la vérité de demeurer très-humbles serviteurs de Sa Majesté, luy puisse estre cogneu et bien imprimé :

vous assurant que de nostre costé ne manquerons à en monstrier les effects partout où il plaira à Sa Majesté nous honorer de ses commandemens; et en vostre endroict ne faudray à le recognoistre par tous moyens qui se présenteront, et vous déclarer par effect combien je vous suis et ay tousjours esté affectionné. Qui sera l'endroict où me recommandant de bien bon cœur à votre bonne grâce, prieray Dieu vous donner, Monsieur de Walsingham, en santé vie bonne et longue.

Escript à Camfer, le dernier jour de may 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 800.)

MMCLXIV.

*Philippe de Marnix au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(LA VÈRE, 31 MAI 1576.)

Il le prie de recommander à la bienveillante attention de la reine le mémoire que le prince d'Orange a remis à Robert Beale.

Monsieur, Le présent porteur, le sieur Robert de Beale, est si bien informé de ce qui se passe par deçà, que je penseroye faire tort à sa suffisance d'en faire icy long discours. Seulement je vous prieray de monstrier maintenant la bonne et entière affection qu'avez tousjours portée à ceste nostre cause, en faisant les bons offices que vostre intégrité et les bonnes parties que Dieu a mises à vous, nous en font attendre, en une cause tant juste et tant favorable aux gens de bien, comme elle est haïe et détestée des meschants. De nostre part vous vous poyez assurer que c'est à nostre grand regret de nous veoir réduits à ces termes qu'avec l'offension de plusieurs il nous faut procurer la conservation, non-seulement de nous, mais aussi de tous ceux qui font vraye profession du nom du Christ. Et, pour tant, comme nous nous confions à vostre prudence et piété, nous espérons qu'aurez regard à ce que dessus, et vous prions d'y tenir la bonne main à ce qu'il plaise à Sa Majesté avoir béning regard aux raisons par nous alléguées en l'escriit que Son Excellence et ceux de par deçà ont baillé audict porteur. De nouvelles, puisque je m'assure qu'en savez plus par delà que ne faisons par deçà, fineray ceste par mes très-humbles et très-affectueuses recommandations à vostre bonne grâce, priant Dieu qu'il vous donne, à vostre souhait, sa sainte garde et protection.

Escript à la Vere, le dernier de may 1576.

(*Bulletins de la Commission royale d'histoire*, 5<sup>e</sup> série, t. II, p. 381.)

MMMCLXV.

*Journal de Daniel Rogers.*

(JUN 1576.)

Conférence avec le prince d'Orange. — Le comte de Culenbourg montre beaucoup de zèle pour la cause anglaise. — Son jugement sur Marnix. — Mécontentement dans la Noord-Hollande au sujet des taxes levées par le prince d'Orange. — Nouvelles diverses.

*June.*

The 1 of june, I spake with the Prince at Campher and desired my aunswer and my particular proppositions: he sayd he would see I might have it as the daye followinge.

The same day, came newes unto the Prince of two which came forth of Ziricksea.

The 2, cappitain Crom was sent towards Ziricksea.

The same daye newes came that the ennemy had bene at Crumpe and that the most part of Gouda would have given them selves unto the ennemye, wherefore the Prince appointed four of his enseignes to retourne out of Zelande into Hollande. At the same tyme, the ennemy came unto Gertrudenberghe, having understandinge with them of the towne or some at the least.

The Prince had some sign from Ziricksea, as the 3, uppon which occasion more thought that Crom was entred, but it is most like that he is not come into the towne, because he rendre not suche signes as the Prince had given him in writtinge, wherefore he thincketh that he is taken and apprehended, by which meanes the ennemy may understande all thinges.

The 5, the Prince intercepted certayn letters written from Mondragon and others in Scowen, by which it appeareth that the enemyes tooke a marryner, who declared unto them for a certenty of the death of the Admirall, and that he had sustayned him in swymminge until Viana, whome he hanged with thirteene others. Item one wroate unto Mons. de Naves, Mr de Maintos proveydor-generall, that, onlesse he verie carefullie provided for victalles, they could not endure fourteen dayes, and that Mondragon had no autorite in the worlde over the souldiers more thana childe; that the tonne of bear cost ther 55 florins.

The thirde, came newes out of Hollande that two shippes were arryved out of Englande at Brill, laden with souldiers.

The 6, came letters out of Englande by Wanton that Collonell Chester was as yet at

London, not making him selfe reddie to departe. John Norrey, Thomas Cobham, Thomas Morgan desire to have a commission to inlade a Spanyarde his shippe, which is stayed in the west, to ye intent that this man brought her to Flusshinge afterwarde and made profit of her.

The 6, departed M<sup>r</sup> Longeston towards Andwerpe, and had with him my letters unto M<sup>r</sup> Longeston with an extract of that part which I had put unto the Prince in my writinge for the Merchant Adventurers. Longeston tarried; my letters had Caltrop.

Ther was one Harryson a goldsmith hanged, drowne and quartered for clippinge of golde.

The 6, came newes unto the Prince out of Fraunce, as the 5<sup>th</sup> out of Englande.

Capptain Stewarde his liutenant and enseigne slayne at Gertruidenberge, as the ennemy did lye secretly in an ambusschement.

The Prince tolde me that Bartell Entes had twyse fought with Rowley and defeated 700 of his men; item yt that the brute was that Rowley him selfe was slayne.

A great grayne hath bene of late in Flanders, which hath done moche hurte there.

The 7<sup>th</sup>, I supped with the Prince at Campher. I beganne after supper to talke with the Count of Cullenberghe, and retourned to him the 8 in the morninge. He declared how he had bene the chefest, which had moved the Hollanders to present the country unto Her Majestie, that as yet it might be done. He wroate unto Her Majestie; he never had any aunswere. If he had had an aunswer, he might with more autoritie deale with the Estates and doe Her Majestie more good. He sayed that Aldegonde were an ambitious man and an hipocrite, that being in prison he had promysed many thinges and bene the occasion of the colloquy of Breda, which hindred and ruined the Estate, that M<sup>r</sup> Hastings coming had done moche good for that the people beganne to fayle and waver, and by his cominge beganne to take courage agayne, that he mynded to retire him selfe out of the country. He tolde me that the Count Hollache should remayne in the ilande of Walchern.

This year, the dikes of Walchern have cost above 100<sup>m</sup> florins the reparators.

The 6 and 7, the Flussinghers came to complayne unto His Excellence uppon M<sup>r</sup> Lowe for ther four shippes wich she stayed in England of thers. The Prince gave me ther attestator under the townes scale touchinge ther depositors.

Wanton brought newes out of England that the Queen of Scotcs treasurer had bene robbed, and that three of them which had bene of this robbery, were taken or slaine; item that the Count of Essex were retourned into Ireland, havinge allowed him 1,000 pounde for his table, item two enseignes of footemen, one of horsemen at the Quenes charges; Capptain Malbey sent to be president in Connach, as sir John Drewry to be president of Mounster.

Newes came the 9<sup>th</sup> of june unto the Prince towchinge the takinge of fiveteen shippes,

three galleys taken and two drowned, which came from Amsterdam, and, as they were a saylinge towards Fryselande, were taken by them of Waterlande, with confirmation of Bartel Entes newes.

The 9<sup>th</sup>, came commandement from the Prince towards Flusshinge that no man should be suffred to departe out of the iland, so that all shippes were arrested.

The same day, came newes unto the Prince from the fleete of certayne tokens showed fourth of the towne of Ziricksea accordinge as the Prince had prescribed unto capp-tain Crom.

The same daye, came newes that thirty shippes were a cominge downe from Andwerpe to victale the campe in Duvelande and Scowen.

The 13, about two of the clocke, departed the fleete from Camfere to victalle Ziricksea. The advent-garde was leade by the Count of Hollache, which commanded over the Wallons and Frenche. The Gouvernour Hauttayn had the arrière-garde, who was to commande the Englishmen and Scottishmen.

The same day, was newes brought of the death of Mondragon from Andwerpe. They saye he dyed at Barow of disentorie.

The 12, I tooke my leave of the Prince after I had supped with him at Camfere.

The 13, departed from Flusshinge Walter Williams with Mr Bele his paequett.

The same daye, against all ordre, was soalled the clothe and merchandises appertaininge to the *Henry* of London, where as the Prince promysed him the daye before that without the merchantes consent they of Flusshing should not sell the goodes.

The 14, departed Levin Calvart towards Fraunce from Flusshinge. The same daye they commanded that the Merchantes Adventurers shippes should [be brought] to Middelborow.

The 15, came to Flusshinge captain Perse.

The 15<sup>th</sup>, about 2 of te clocke, departed the Count of Hollache and the Gouvernour towards Scowen to lande especiall three men in the ilande. The night followinge, they beganne to shute and retourned the 14<sup>th</sup>, *re infecta*. It seemeth the ennemy had avertisement of ther cominge, and a myst did devyde the fleete that they could not sec one an other, but were sejoyned and knew not wether they went.

The 17<sup>th</sup>, I departed from Vlissinge towards England. I arryved at the Court the 20. I retourned with sir William Winter the 24 to Gravesende and came to Vlissing the 27 of june.

The 27, I was sent unto the Prince to advertise His Excellence that sir William Winter was arryved and that he desired to know wher he might best attend to speak with him.

The 30, I went unto the Prince for audience. He aunswered that as the first of julie he would see he might come unto him.

The same day, the Prince thought to make an exploit uppon Ziricksea, but that the wind was to great.

When the Princesse came to Camfere, the Count of Cullenburch departed towardses Hollande to kepe them in ther dewtie.

In North-Hollande they like not of the union made betwixt North-Hollande, South-Hollande and Zelande, and they mislike the convayghelt and new taxes made by the Prince and the Estates, for that, as they saye, the merchants would not so moche frequent them as they did, for the taxes.

The bruite was that the ennemye beganne to communicate and parle with them of Ziricksea.

(Record office, Cal., n° 251.)

MMCLXVI.

*L. T.<sup>1</sup> à Philippe de Marnix.*

(GREENWICH, 3 JUIN 1576.)

Reproches violents contre le Secrétaire Jules Buys. — Opérations militaires en Zélande.

Salutem in Christo. Quicquid agatur vel dicatur in favorem Julii Busini Secretarii, etiam atque etiam rogo, quantum in te est, des operam ut justas pœnas luat potius quam carcere et vinculis solvatur. Non sum nescius quam simulate et perfide agunt omnia, adeo ut tum maxime fallunt, cum id agunt ut probi et boni viri esse videantur, sed ego semper recordor illius dicti, cujus oblivisci non possum, præsertim in causa Christi, et causa illius qui proditor est omnium nostrum: « Mortuus, scilicet, non nocet. » Dum in vivis sunt, locus est precibus, nos nobis adulari patimur. Multa, mihi crede, in nos ipsos committimus, quorum nos postea piget, cum emendare fas non est. Qui in sero venientem pœnitentiam antevertit, prudens est, rectissimeque incedit qui non impingit in lapidem dicentium. Non putaram. Intelliges ex hac inclusa quantopere sibi adblandiuntur et quæ vobis de novo negotia: unicum quod supradixi pharmacum est, optima medicina cunctis non dissimilibus laborantibus morbis. Sed de his hæcenus tu, prout videbitur (et uti spero) pro Dei gloria et incolumitate reipublicæ Christianæ, facies. Ego vicissim rogabo Deum nostrum ut caute incedas in viis ejus et in offenso pede ad adventum

<sup>1</sup> Probablement Lawrence Tomson.

Domini Jesu , cujus spiritus te dirigat in omnem sapientiæ veræ tramitem et vestra omnia in ipso incepta et instituta sospitet. Vale et me, ut soles, diligas et justo dolori meo concedas si in hoc pecco.

Raptim, Grenvici, 5 junii 1576.

(*British Museum, Egerton, 1694, f° 16.*)

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MMCLXVII.

*Robert Beale au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 4 JUIN 1576.)

Négociations en Zélande. — Il importe de connaître les intentions de la reine. — Subside réclamé par le prince d'Orange.

It may please Your Honor. According to your good advise, I have fully written unto My Lords of all my things here, and, according to Their Lordship's letters, am to remayne here till I receive Her Majesty's answer to suche thinges as I presently send, where in I shall humbly crave Your Honor's good furtheraunce that it may be done, with as much spede as may be, for I am weary of my being here; and, if Her Majesty's friendly letter might be procured to appease his wounded and discontented mynde, and then Her Highnes would vouchesafe to make but some indifferent answer to his writing and under her hand advow to pleasure him that she ys contented to performe suche things, as I was willed to promis him by Their Lordships letters of the 7<sup>th</sup> of the last, I would then hope the shippes might be released, although veary extremity as I thinck driveth him to demande the borowing of so great a somme of money, and he hath many times repeted unto me Her Majestie's answer unto the deputies, that, if she could not procure an answer, then would she send him her full resolution to their demands within xiiij dayes, which are long past, and the sharpnes of the warres rather encreased sithe then diminished. He semeth to hope for some what, and I wold be glade to understand, from Their Lordships and Your Honnor, what I shall answer thereunto, for I have ben demaunded the same of St-Aldegonde and others, and Your Honor in the memoriall willed me to tell them what Her Majestie heard from divers he sholde be advertised. Since I have received nothing but that they of Brussels gave little care to that motion, making full account of the taking of Siericksea, which I thought good not to tell him



for the discouraging of him and making of our case here more desperate. There is in London one Robert Leman, an English denizen against whome Sothick had the suite, whose advertisements, as I take it, have don no good here. And being a subject and seeking justice at the Princes hands, and not at Her Majestie, I thincke by extremitie of law might be brought within the compas of a *premunire*, but I wold be lothe the poore man shold have so much harme especially at this tyme; but, if Your Honor send for him and geve him a good lesson and learne from him the names of such advertisers bothe in London and along the whole coast, which send letters hether, Your Honor shall in my opinion do Her Majestie and His Excellency good service; for, by sending over every flowing tale and newes, they cause discontentement and variaunce and do no good on neither side. There went also over of late (as I am informed) a young man brother to one Marten Frolicks with sondry letters. The marchants and specially Leman can finde him out. And, if he were examined to whome suche letters were directed, suche busye fellowes wold be knowne; and such ys their credulitye here that one of their lettres, either in suche matters as Their Lordships have appointed me to deale in, or in marchants cawses, shall easy sway a matter bothe in judgement and otherwise, and have more creditte then I thinck Her Majestie or Their Lordships lettres. At the lest, I find by experiance they prevaile more then any speche I can use unto them, and so shall Your Honor perceyve in the Princes answer, many times, by these and such like words: *estant suffisamment informé d'Angleterre*.

I doubt not but that their iiij shippes are ready to be released, but they cavill that the ordnance ys sold. I shall desire Your Honour to advertise me in what estate they be, and to procure, if it may be, some letter or attestation from the captenes or others unto them here, that these informations of the sale of their artillerye and that their man have ben kept in prison in a dungeon with bread and water, are false: which I thinck wold content them here and discredit the informers in little matters here after. Concerning newes, we have nothing but that yt seemeth that the Princes meaning ys to make a newe attempt for the victualling of Surecksea, on th'other side of the island, towards Browershaven and Bomene, where they have understanding that the soldiers and maryners are in lesse numbers and great necessitye of victualls. The Lord sende them good successe. He loketh for more soldiers out of Holland, which are not yet arrived, and therefore, the matter being so long differred and bruted in every mans mouthe before hands, I feare the event.

I have sent the lettres enclosed in the last packett to Mons. de St. Aldegonde, and have distrued the confession signed with the parties hand, wherto he hath as yet made me no answer. But it shall not be forgotten. I shall most humbly desire Your Honour then I may have the coppyes of suche letters and things as shall be sent to the Prince,

so, them sent, I may the better direct my speches there after, and so most humbly take my leave.

From Middelbourg, the iiij of june 1576.

(*British Museum, Addit., Mss. 5955, f° 26.*)

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MMMCLXVIII.

*Robert Beale à lord Burleigh.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 5 JUIN 1576.)

Arrangements à conclure à la suite des plaintes du comte d'Oxford. — Entretien avec le prince d'Orange sur la restitution des prêts qui lui ont été faits par la reine. — Nouvelles de Zélande.

My duety most humbly remembred to Your good Lordship. Besides the generall letter which I have written to all Ther Lordship of my doinges with the Prince here, I knowe not what to advertise Your Lordship particularly of. In the matter of my Lord of Oxford, I have delt as earnestlie as I could, and the rather for that by a letter of Your Lordshippes, which yt pleased M<sup>r</sup> Secretarie Walsingham to shewe unto me before my departure, I perceaved the great care Your Lordship had thereof. . . . indede the case deserved. And, yf so moche has not ben don therein, as reason were and as Your Lordship doth desire, I shall most humbly beseche Your Lordship to attribute the same rather to the unreasonableness of these persons with whom I have to do, than to that is my default (as God ys my witnes). For, notwithstanding the Princes letters to both Your Lordships a . . . his faire promises to me that justice shallbe . . . and that the parties be in prison appears en . . . ry, I cannot learne, but that onely one hath been apprehended, whose name ys Lambellon, who . . . is but kept in a townesman house of Flusshing, and hath liberty to walke abroad. And appears that my Lord of Oxford wilbe appeased with a letter which I understand he sent unto His Lordship when I was in Holland. He trusteth to escape; and, when I regard the small consideration they have of Her Majesty and Your Lordship letters (more than in faire words) . . . partly beleve yt. And therefore in my simple . . . bothe Your Lordships are to deale earnestly in your next letters for justice. For considering the carelesness and imparitye of soche offenses in these places, all wilbe little enoughe. And where they

demaund more particular information, I have declared unto them the manner of the outrage committed to his parson, as I understode yt from His Lordship at Rochester. And for the particularity of the goodes, althoughe I demaunded to have them restored, yet my chiefest desire was, seing *jam constat de facto* by the confession of the said Lambellion and things taken here, to have justice don for the reparation of injurys and dishonor. And as appon my information they found the daggers which were sent by Mr Herbert, so might they find more of his stuff yf they listed. But I heare sum of his golden stuff hath cam to sum of the cheef officers' hands, which nowe beare out the matter. I have ben fedd in this matter, as in the rest, with delayes, and. if Her Majesty send not a pleasing answer to the Prince's writing, they seem to be so desperate that I thinke no justice, nor ought els wilbe had of all my demaunds.

Touching the newes, yt is said that on the other side of the iland of Suricksea towards Bomene, a bote of theirs is entred into the towne, on which side they minde to make a newe attempt, keeping still a great flecte of hoyes before the hedde on this side to enterteine the ennemye. God send them good successe; for, if they prevaile not, I feare, er ever yt be long, all will go to wracke. And the newes out of Holland are that the Prince having withdrawen his principal forces hither for this purpos, and only left sum small garnisons of the countryemen in the townes, at one instant, three places, viz. Gertrudensberg, Goude and Krempen, were like to have ben betrayed, if the capteins, havinge sum understanding thereof, had not sent off to the Estates for other companyes of soldiers, which were not so sone entred at one gate, as the enemy was approaching to the other.

His chiefest forces be of Englishmen to the nombre of 1,100 or therabout, and 2,000 Scottes. The rest be Walons, Fleminges and a band of . . . Frenchemen<sup>1</sup>. And, if Her Majesty should of her self and by her credite with the Regent revoke th . . . and restrayne velteels from London, out of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, they wold be in harde case, and they knowe what benefitt they receyve out of England.

It is incredible what quanteties are caried by reporte into Flanders and these partes, of bacon, beaf, corne and wood, which is sold here secretly, insomuche that sum more merchantes enquiring thereafter have ben threatned by the Flusshingers to be slaine if that victualling trade were discovered. I heare of one Davison dwelling (as yt is sayd) about vj mile beside Harwiche, which sithe my coming hither brought over 60 live hogges. Your Lordship ys to take soch order therin as shall seeme most convenient to your honorable wisdom.

They of Flusshing prepare a flecte shortlye to be sett out of x or xij barcks well

<sup>1</sup> Le 22 juin 1576, le docteur Dale accusait le roi de France de duplicité; car il promettait en même temps son appui au roi d'Espagne et au prince d'Orange. (*Record office, Cal.*, n° 826.)

appointed to meet with (as I am given to understand) the spanish fleet comyng out of the Indees.

This daye, a report ys given out by sum Dutchmen that yesterdaye arrived at Flushing, that the shippes in the west cuntrye are not like to be released and that their ordinance and artillery is taken away, and that one of them ys gon to the sea with Englishmen, which, if it be trewe (as I trust yt is not), empaireth the credite of the offer for their release which I mad unto the Prince, which Your Lordship names.

I am afrayd they will have monnye appon these goods before they be released; for, by that which I heare of sum of his Counsell, the Prince thinketh he may lawfully do so uppon bondes of the Estates for their repayment, as Her Majesty stayed for her uses monny coming our of Spaine. And, allthough I have replyed that yt is no good consequence by reason of the diversitie of ther Estates that if Her Majesty did yt, *ergo* the Prince of Orange may do yt in this case, when the merchants cam under safeconduct and assurance under hand and seale, and further that Her Highnes paied xii in the 100 interest, where he offreth nothing, and besides Her Majesty gave good assurance of repaiement, which I do not see he and the Estates being so endebted can presently make or wold performe, considering howe uppon like bondes smaller debtes are not answered at their tymes. And therby the merchants trafficque and goods wold be in hazard to be broken and confiscated at Antwerp, where they be bound neither directly, nor indirectly to give them any succor or ayde, and last of all a great number of poore merchants and mariners undon. I can gett no other answer, but *necessitas non habet legem*. And as I find the Prince hard, so his officers and the Estates are farr worse, which are more strangers to the cuntrye (wherat there ys no small grudging), and growe wealthy by warres, and in tyme of peace must seeke any other home, and therefore for their owne lucre further these indirecte actions which God cannot long blesse <sup>1</sup>.

And so, with offer of my poore service to be at Your Lordships commandement, I humbly take my leave.

From Middelborg, the v<sup>th</sup> of june.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. V, n° 78.*)

<sup>1</sup> D'après Viglius, il y avait en ce moment un mouvement d'apaisement dans les Pays-Bas : « Verum multum calor primus deferbuit postquam hinc discessit Albanus, judexque ejus Vargas qui inde eam gratiam retulit ut in Hispaniam reversus in regis aspectum nunquam admissus animi mœrore ibi extinctus fuerit. » Lettre de Viglius, du 3 juin 1576.

J'emprunte cette citation à un précieux recueil de lettres de Viglius conservé au *British Museum, Hartey, 3421*.

## MMCLXIX.

*Instructions données à William Winter.*

(19 JUIN 1576.)

Il aura à répondre aux objections et aux requêtes du prince d'Orange. — Il faudra d'abord user de moyens de persuasion avant de recourir aux menaces. — Examen des objections et des requêtes. — Termes dont il faudra se servir pour les réfuter. — Il faudra insister sur l'intérêt du prince d'Orange à ne pas blesser la reine d'Angleterre. — Qu'il ne croit pas que de sa fortune dépend le sort de l'Angleterre. — Si le prince d'Orange refuse de restituer les navires anglais, il y aura lieu de chercher quelque moyen de les recouvrer. — Enfin, il y aura lieu de déclarer que la reine est résolue à employer la force. — En ce cas Winter et Beale retourneront immédiatement à Londres. — Quant aux capitaines anglais qui servent le prince d'Orange, il devront, dans cette hypothèse, rentrer en Angleterre ou se joindre aux Espagnols, à moins qu'ils ne puissent utilement occuper les villes où ils se trouvent.

*Instructions given by my Lords of the Councell to Sir William Winter, knight, sent into Zeland to the Prince of Aurange, the xix<sup>th</sup> of june 1576.*

Whereas the Merchantes Adventurers, as also other Hir Majestic's subjects, have at this present under arrest at Flushing a masse of merchandise, amountyng in value well neere to the somme of twoe hundrethe thowsand powndes, the losse whereof would be not only the utter decaye and ruine of the proprietaries, but also greatly prejudiciall to this realme (the portion of treasure beyng so great), wee thincke it convenient, rather than to growe to hostilitie whereby the whole should be lost, to use all good meanes for the recoverie therof. And therefore findyng in our opinions but one of the three wayes followyng to be taken for the healpe of this, to wite: ether by perswasion, by slight or by threats, wee thincke it fitt you proceade by degrees, and to begin withe perswasion, and not without some sharpe termes in speche. And therefore, at the tyme of your accesse unto the Prince, havinge first acquainted M<sup>r</sup> Beale, Hir Majestic's minister there, with theise your instructions, and conferred him uppon the same, you, and he with you, shall declare unto him as followeth :

First, that bothe Hir Majesty and wee uppon conference had of his generall answere sent hither in excuse of his not releasyng Hir Majestic's subjects' shippes, doe conceive the same to consist principally uppon twoe points, to wite : objections and requests.

For replie to the objections contained in his sayd answere, first, you shall let him understand, towching the fower shippes stayed at Faulmouth, wherewith he seemethe to be aggrieved, for that they weare not released, that, as it was verie well answered

by you, Mr Beale, Hir Majestie's minister there, the only cause of the continewance of the staye grewe upon the newe arrest made th . . . of the Merchant Adventurers' shippes, which th . . . , yf he doe well consider, he shall then se that the cause grewe from himselfe, and not from us, and the same growndeth upon great reason. And, whereas, upon this point, in the speache that passed between him and Hir Majestie's sayd minister, he seemethe to distrust the assurance wee willed hir minister there to gyve unto him, towching the settinge of the sayd ships at libertie upon the release of the Merchants Adventurers, you shall signifie unto him, any such promiss made, that wee thincke our selves therein greatly towched in honour, for that it was never heard of before that anie prince dyd ever enter into any dystruste of the Councell of England, beyng compounded as it is of personages of so honorable qualitie and that allwayes have had as great regard to the maintenance of their word and promise, as anie other state or councell in Europe. Notwithstandinge, in this behalfe, yf you shall fynd in him a disposition to satisfie Hir Majestie's request, then shall you assure him, bothe in Hir Majestie's name and in ours, that the sayd ships (which are forthcoming what soever hathe been reported to the contrarie) shalbe released and delivered in so good state as he shall have cause to rest satisfied.

Secondarily, whereas he mislikethe of a letter of mark or arreste, as he termeth it, grawnted to Southaicke, though in verie deed it was but a commission directed unto the Judge of the Admiraltie and certaine others to examine his cause of complaint, by calling some that weare here his agents to be present, and in case the sayd Judge and the rest of the commissioners should fynd just cause of recompence to be made unto him then to staye suche a quantite of goods as should be found to appertaine to them of Holland and Zeland as might satisfye the vallew untill restitution might be made, yet maye you assure him that the same commission shalbe revoked in case he shall yeald that satisfaction to Hir Majestie by releasyng hir subjects' shippes, as in honour, conscience and equitie he is bownd.

Thirdly, towching Hir Majestie's sharppe letter written unto him for the release of Giraldie's wyfe, wherewith he seemethe greatly to be aggrieved, alleaging that never like letter was written unto him by anie other prince, you shall let him understand that aboute the same tyme that Giraldie's wyfe was taken, Hir Majestie was greatly grieved with the sondrie and daily complaints of hir subjects that weare spoyled by them of Flusslinge, so that, findyng hir subjects spoyled and the wyfe of a publique person caried away violently, notwithstanding shee was conducted over by a brother of the Lord Cobham's, especially sent by Hir Majestie for that purpose, shee had, by these kynd of strange dealyngs, so juste an occasion of offence ministred unto Hir Highnes, as never the like was offred by anie prince that hathe been so frendly dealt withall, as he hathe been by this crowne, wherewith, yf Her Majestie shoold not have

shewed her selfe to have ben offended, she myght worthely have ben reputed to have had neyther dewe regarde to her honour, nor just commiseratyon of her subjectes.

Fourthly, whereas he also findethe him selfe grieved for that, as he conceavethe, he was proclaimed rebell, you shall let him understand that he hath been wrongly enforced of the true circumstances used in that behalfe, the same beyng in deed suche as weare imparted unto him by you, M<sup>r</sup> Beale, Hir Majestie's minister there, to wite : that it could not be proved that Hir Majestie had declared him a rebell, but, contrariwise, upon earnest petition of the Kinges commissioners to have all Hollanders and Zelanders accompted as rebels, and forbidden trafficque in England, shee would not grawnt there unto. Howbeit, to satisfie the Kyng's express letter grounded upon the treaty, wherby it was required that certen persons, in the sayd letter named, shuld be, accordyng to the wordes of the treaty, expelled and bannished this realm, which when the Kinge had done by his letters, Hir Majestie, not by anie sollemne act or publication, but under hand, gave some warnyng to hir ports not to admitt such persons, where with the Prince had no occasion to be so grieved. For, yf Hir Highnes had meant so evill as it seemethe he takethe it, shee would never have admitted S<sup>t</sup>-Aldegonde, nor the rest of Hollanders with hym, as shee dyd, to have repared unto hir realme : with which answere to this grieffe wee thincke in all reason he should rest satisfied and thincke Hir Majestie, in doynge as shee dyd, had no smale regard of his honour.

Fifthely, where as he complainethe of the evill usage of his commissioners sent hither, as that they weare sent away without reward, that threatnyngs weare used towards them, and that they weare longe intertained with delayes : for the fyrst you shall signifie unto him that, as wee are not acquainted with anie evill usage they have received, so can wee not answere the same. For the second, where it is sayd they went away unrewarded, they, them selves, yf they list to confesse the truthe, can saye the contrarie, havinge in verie deed received a verie honorable and bowntifull reward. For the third, towchinge the threatnyngs, trewe it is that it was plainly tould them that Hir Majestie would not endure that the Frenche should have anie footyng there, and therefore advised them in frendly sort to forbear to practise withe them in that behalfe, shewyng them that in seekyng to displace the Spainard by placinge the Frenche, was like to one that to escape drownynge would throwe him selfe into the fyre. For the last, concerninge their longe staye here, yf they consider the weightinesse of the matter, there is no reason why they should fynd fault with so just cawse of longe deliberation.

Sixtly, where as he alleageth that it was promised his commissioners that within xiiij dayes he should understand what answere was made unto Hir Majestie's minister sent to the present Governours in Flanders to procure a surceaunce of armes, you shall signifie unto them that their strange maner of proceadinge towards Hir Majestie

by the begynning and continewance of the arrest, whilst hir minister was there about the procuryng of the sayd surceaunce, and befor he cold receive any answer of the States of the Low-Contres, gave Hir Highnes just cause to make staye in that behalfe, seeinge their unthankfull dealyng towards hir, that was so carefull for them, havinge employed before tymes sondrie ministers, as well in Spayne as in the Low-Countries for their good.

Havinge dealt in this sort with him towching his objections, yf he shall presse you to the answearing of his requests (for otherwise wee would have you forbear to deale therein), then shall you proccede as followethe. First, whereas he desyreth that Hir Majesties subjects maye be inhibited from trafficquyng into Flanders, as a matter greatly prejudiciall unto him, you shall let him understand that the late usage of Hir Majestie's subjects, which trafficque into those parts, hathe been so hard and owtra-giouse as withowte anie inhibition (whereunto Hir Majestie in honour can not yeald) it is likely that they of them selfs will forbear to repaire thither. Secondarily, where as he desyreth that Hir Majestie would not mislike that he might borrowe of the Merchant Adventurers the somme of one hundreth thousand angels, you shall tell him that the waye he taketh herin is so dishonorable to Hir Majestie that it can not stand with the nature of anie princee. For, the name only of borrowyng set apart, the matter is rather a constraint than otherwise. Gratuities are to passe from partie to partie, especially between princees, amongst whome their ought to be no dealyngs but princelike, with all kynd of graciositie, voyd of enforcement.

And therefore Hir Majestie can not in reason bend to yeald to suche a petition as carieth withe it nothing but dishonour to hir selfe and hir State, besyde the wronge done to hir subjects.

After the answearing of the sayd objections and requests, you shall then of your selfe, as one pityng his estate, laye before him howe greatly this kynd of dealyng maye hurt the whole cause which he professeth. Hir Majestie beyng occasioned, through the greates complaints of hir subjects, to alter the course of hir gracious disposition towards the strangers of those contries now retyred into this realme, maye happily cast them owt of hir dominions, a matter of so great consequence as maye move him and the States to better resolutions in the causes of Hir Majestie's subjects. For, yf these matters growe on to further unkindnes, in steede of refuge and safeitie which they have had here, they shalbe cast into their enemies' armes, and be driven to come to their ports to be receaved from whome before they fled, and whome still do seeke their bloud: the cause of which miserie, proceedinge from his contemptuouse dealyng towards Hir Majestie, can not but rendre him odious to all good men, and in the end the greatest peece of the smart will light on himselfe. For, from hence, not yielding to restitution, he is to looke for nothing but suche hostilitie as one enemye



hathe to looke for from another, bothe by annoiyng him with forces, as also by restrai-nyng him from all suche commodities as before tyme they have reaped from hence to their proffitt, and they stand presently in as great neede of, or rather more than ever they dyd. For bothe such meanes of victuallynge as hathe been used heretofore from hence, tho their great reliefe, and other helpes which ar to manny to be in few wordes remembred, shalbe cutt of from him, as also the free accesse to Hir Majestie's ports restrained. You shall therefore advice him as one that wishethe well unto him, deeply to consider of the perill that maye followe by persistynge in this injuriouse maner of dealyng towards Hir Majestic.

Further more, for that it seemethe by his sayd answere sent hither, that he should conceave that Hir Majestic's state and saltie should depend uppon his fortune, which perhaps makethe him to presume that shee will endure anie injurie at his hands, you shall, as of your selfe, advice him not to be abused with that imagination. For, whether he stand or fall, the King of Spaine shall for manie respects as greatly neede the amitie of England, as England the amitie of Spaine. And, in case he should be otherwise affected, Hir Majestic's forces and meanes of defence, whatsoever he conceavethe, are not, thanekes be to God, so weake or feeble but that shee shalbe able to defend hir selfe against the sayed King or anie other prince that shall have anie meanyng to attempt anie thinge agaynst hir. And, howsoever the matter went, and that it weare trewe that his fall or overthrowe could not be withowt some perill unto Hir Highnes, yet weare it not for hir honour ether to yeald to such requests contained in his answere in such sort as are by him propownded or to endure that hir subjects should be daily so owtraged as they are.

By the waye you maye lett fall that in the judgment of the world the aptest meane for Hir Majestic to withstand or prevent the perill that he conceavethe might growe to hir by his overthrowe, weare to joyne with the King of Spaine against him.

After the delyvereng of thes owre speches unto him, as also yore owne partyeuler advyce, yf you shall fynde that he will not be indused to yelde to restytutyon, then shall you proccade to the seconde degre, and that is, by practyce and devyce to fynde owt some waye (thowghe yt be with hazarde) for the stealyng awaye of the sayd shippes, eyther by brynging of them into this realme or conveyeng them back to Antwerpe, as the wynde shall most aptely serve, wherin, for that yt were harde for us to preserybe unto what coorse were fyt for you to take for the executyon therof, we thinke yt most convenient to referre the same to your good dyscretyon.

And in case you shall fynde that neyther by perswatyon, nor by slyght or practyce, the release of the sayd shypps can be procured, then shall you dyscende to the thirde degre, letting him playnly understande that, in case releass be not presently mad, as well of the shippes perteyning to the Merchaunt Adventurers now under arrest, and

others whose cause of stey hath bene clamed by sentence ther of ther Admiralty, and such other shippes which you shall fynd in justice ought to be restored, Her Majestie is fully resolved to prosecute this injury with all hostylyte, not only by hir own forces and hir subjectes, but by all other meanes, in revenge of the dysonor and injuryes she and her subjects therby shall be sene to have receyved at his handes.

And so this denuneyatyon . . . . lyte being don, bothe you and Her Majestie's mynister there, Mr Beale, shall immedyatly retorne, and, befor you shall mak this denunciation, you shall use some meanes by some speciall persons . . . . advertise further . . . . also how befor your sayd denunciation the merchantes english may save themselves by escapyng thence.

We woold have you during the tyme of your abode ther informe your selfe of the state of that ilande, as what forces they have ther placed in ther townes, howe the sayd townes be fortifyed, what landyng places ther are fit for dyscent, yf Her Majesty, for lacke of restytutyon, should be forced to use hostylyte. Moreover, we thinke yt convenient that in case you see no hope of restytutyon to followe, you geve some secreat warninge unto Edward Barkeley and other the englysche capteynes servyng ther under the Prince, eyther to retyre himselfe into this realme, or to drawe them selves to some of the townes in the King of Spayne's possessyons next adjoyning, or otherwyse to devyce, if they can thynk it probable, howe to possess them selves of some place of importaunce perteynyng unto the Prince, bothe gardable and fyt [to annoye] them, as also by seytuatyon and porte may be kept by them selves and aptely receyve releefe from hence.

(Record office, Cal., n° 819.)

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MMCLXX.

*Robert Colshill à lord Burleigh.*

(ANVERS, 23 JUIN 1576.)

Sédition militaire à Anvers. — On annonce que le comte d'Altaemps se retirera et que Champagny reprendra le gouvernement d'Anvers. — On attend des marins espagnols. — Propositions d'un serviteur du comte de Northumberland. — Importance du port de Calais. — Souffrances des Anglais prisonniers.

Accordinge unto my dewtie and Your Lordship's good plesor, am I boldened to wrighte these unto Your Honnor, wherein I moste homblye beseche Your Honnor I

maye commende the love, faithe and sarvice of a plaine man unto Your Lordship, who, likinge Your Lordship to accepte, I shall endeavor to love, serve and honor faithfullye and trulye, while I have brethinge. And for that sence my comynge to this towne there happened some causes fytt for Your Lordship's understanding, I thought yt myghte my dewtie to advertis Your Lordship therof. That is, one *Corpus Cristie* daye so cauled here, and after ther sollem prosessyon in ther jollytye of thier God, a sowdaine mutenye fell amonge the Allmaines here in garrison, under Counte Hanniball, to the number of xv<sup>e</sup>, for *gelte, gelte*, and in ther furye beate ther ausell beror, killed an honnest burgois and hurte sondrie, but this dured but a while; for, by gevinge them ij dallars a peace and makinge promys for bettor provision for them by th'Estate, they be apesed, and this grewe, as saide yt ys, that, promys beinge made and monnye provided for ther paic, the same was countermanded into Hollande to Monsir de Hierge, Barlemonte's sonne, governor of Hollande, for that he wroighte unto the Staite that, one leste he hade some paic for his soldiors, they wolde all revolte.

That nighte the Flushingars burnte a villadge called Oysterwell, not two inglishe miells frome this towne, and touke cc heade of cattell, saide to be oxen, c horses, prissonors withe bagge and baggage, and the next daye, in our sighte, to the number of xvij saile, chased the Kinge's galleis, wiche were but iiij, homwarde under the bullwerke at the towne's ende nereste Flushinge, betweine whome was ther longe and great shoyte without hurte to anye partie, for ther mallis semed to batter the wator then harme them selves, and, about ij or iiij of the clocke, the fridaye followinge, the Flushingars in bravery departed in our sighte.

Sayd yt is that Countye Hanniball shalbe this nexte weke discharged, and is regimentes, and in his place here shall come hether Countye Oversten, and then Monsieur Champenye to holde his governorshipe of this towne.

I learne by letters nowe come frome Spaine that the Duke de Segovya shall come as governor of these partes, but of this there ys sondrye named.

And by the saide letters, saide yt is that the Kinge myndethe to sende numbers of marrinors hether frome Biskaye, for that the want of them here ys greate, for that there be manye newe vessells made and ships in the haven that liethe still for wante of mar- rinors.

Sence my comynge hether, sowdanly in my chamber unloked for came unto me one Inggrome Thwyng, namine him selfe a gentillman, lat servant to the laite Erle of Northomberland, confessinge him selfe a rebell and traytor to Her Majesti and coun- trye, homblye requiringe my letters to Your Lordship for his pardon, the wiche withe sharpnes I denied to have anye delinge, without in recompence of his sondrye tresons he wold bewraye or discloise unto me some mattor worthic of my letters or Your Lordship's honorable favor: to the wiche he awnswered for tyme present he knewe

nothinge, albeyt I lerne him to be agreate doer withe Cotton, and judge him lewde and subtill, yet to this is he come that, havinge promys of pardon, he will do hereafter great sarvice, and will delyver me packettes of letters, and dysclose sondrye practises as he cane lerne them, and so his ladye, is he goine as he promesithe, but what he will prove I knowe not. I am therfore to require Your Lordship's good plesor herein, as he that is wholye at your commandment and direction.

I lerne also that our inglishe traitors utterethe mucche mallis againste Her Majesti and Estaite, and yet ys ther smalle confydence or truste amonge them, and suche as were of them bannished use these partes commonlye without anye gaine, sainge ye, and the Spaniardes also use over lewde speches and thretonethe mucche Englande, wiche I truste shalbe ther baine, and to have as manye frindes as Her Majesti in Ingland, wiche God defende sholde be so trewe as they be insolent and arrogante.

At Calliz upon my arivall there I dilligentlye noted the towne gretlye amended over that yt was when I was laste there with the capitaine of Her Majesti' garde, and great trafficke used by marchantes, bothe by sea and lande into all partes, as frome Spaine, Fraunce, Inglonde and other partes. Ther wantes no ships to carrye and recarrye, and night and daye from hence and Bridges there goethe waggons in no smale number, ladon with merchandice, to and fro. Besides I finde the Prince to have his factor there to sell what ys gotton by sea, by wiche the people ys gretlye enriched, and yet but a smale garrison there of povery Johns, not gente or men can I call them. I praie God sende them as good lucke as we hade of yt, as when we loked more for profytte then for streinthe.

In the galleis be here, My good Lorde, our countrimen moste crewellye and continuallye tormented that yt wolde make an Englisheman's harte to rende in piesses to behold ther tormentes and misserye. Gentillmen be there of them and manlike men wonderfullye dysgwysed. I wolde to God some mereye mighte be procured them agreinge with Your Lordship's honorable wisdomes and pollesye.

I wolde to God withe Your Lordship's favor I mighte put Your Lordship in memorye of [Your] Lordship's honorable promys that nothinge be downe in the comyssyon for Her Majesti' landes where I am a poore officer by Your Lordship's favor and goodnes; for, havinge spent mucche monnye and great travall without recompence of my chardges, I wolde be lothe other sholde take praise of travall fro me. And so, My good Lorde, do I fynishe desiringe to be shrowded under Your Lordship favorable protection, desiringe God to prosper Your Lordship with longe lyffe and helthe and eche other honorable good I wolde for Your Lordshipe.

Frome the Andwerpe, this xxiii of june 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 828.)

## MMMCLXXI.

*Journal de Daniel Rogers.*

(JUILLET 1576.)

Nouvelles diverses. — Si le prince d'Orange n'est pas secouru par les Anglais,  
il s'alliera aux Français.

*Julie.*

The first of Julie, the Prince came unto Middelburche from Campher to salute sir William Winter, and they were longe together.

The same day, arryved captain Crom to Campher from Ziricksea with newes that the ennemyes parled with them of the towne.

The towne of Ziricksea was rendred to the King the 2 of Julie with suche conditions as the towne of Middelburche was rendred unto the Prince : to witt that it should be lawfull for all souldiers to departe the towne with enseignes displayed as as moche as they could carry forthe. Dorp came with a shippe laden with his wares. Item the bayle should tarry there untill that the pensioner of Ziricksea were rendred unto them with suche prisoners as are at Middelburche of Ziricksea. About evening they shot of for joye thickly as good as 800 souldiers came forthe.

The 5, the Prince cast six companies of souldiers because that many were unparfaict, by this reason they should fill ther companies : in Holland, they cast likewyse six.

The 4<sup>th</sup>, the Prince sent the Count of Hollache towards the Plat with captain Barekley.

The third, the Prince received a paquet out of France, and Mons. de Malroy, Mons. de Aernaute's brother, came to Middelbourche with Mons. de Revers. He sayeth that the Prince would have the Frenche to lende him 52,000 men and sendeth them no money, wher as they have made pease in Fraunce for lacke of money.

The 10<sup>th</sup>, the Prince complayned unto me after supper that the Estates of Hollande without his consent had sent a greffier of Rotterdam, who hath marryed the nece of Viglius, to the Estates of Brabant, etc., for peace : which was done uppon occasion of one which came from Viglius and encouraged them there unto. By this meanes the Prince sayed that the ennemyes would learne moche of secretes and that they could not otherwyse well doo it.

The 12<sup>th</sup>, the Prince was at Campher to sende certayn shippes to the seas against Browershaven, that the ennemyes, which would come forth, might be kept in.

I spake with His Excellency the 20 of julie touchinge the fame of assurances : he sayed the english merchantes ought to resolve they would give the assurances onely or permitt that the Frenchemen might likewyse doo it. If they would doo it onely, then they must yet except the Easterling trade of corne. Item suche frebutiers as should goo to the Indies. Item he would except salt, corne and anckers to be carryed to the Lowe-Countrey, and would do it in such manner that they onely should traffieq with ther shippes so that they would give yearly a certayne some unto His Excellency. He feareth greatly that the Queens Majestie, havinge embraced it, would regreat her counsell, that should then be his ruine: here most be provided for Portugall, because some of our shippes can go thether.

Doctor Frances d'Inchuisen told me the 20<sup>th</sup> that, if Her Majestie would descende to this waye of assurances, that the Hollanders never would suffre any monney to be now borrowed of the Merchantes Adventurers; item that the Merchantes should give no money before the bonde of the Hollanders came.

The 15 of julie, I was sent from sir William Winter unto the Prince to know of him if he were yet in the same moode in which he was when he sent his deputes into England for yt offers which he had made. He aunswered me that, because the Queene had refused to deale with those offres, that therefore, by Her Majesties permission, he hath dealt with other (meaninge, as it appeared, the Frenche) and that he taryed for aunswer. Before he had an aunswer, he could not determine any thinge, besides that the Councell and Estates of Hollande and Zelande were to be assembled.

Sir William Winter retourned with M<sup>r</sup> Beale the 25 of julie 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 251.)

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## MMMCLXXII.

### *Demande d'un passeport.*

(JUILLET 1576.)

Le capitaine Digby qui avait obtenu de Requesens l'autorisation de se rendre en Angleterre, demande un passeport pour rejoindre M. de Hierges.

(Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles. — Papiers de l'Audience, liasse 161.)

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## MMMCLXXIII.

*Le prince d'Orange à Luc de Heere.*

(MIDDELBORG, 6 JUILLET 1576.)

Projet formé pour surprendre la ville de Nieupoort.

S<sup>r</sup> Lucas de Here, Ayant entendu par le S<sup>r</sup> de S<sup>te</sup>-Aldegonde la bonne affection que me portez et le grand zèle qu'avez à nostre cause commune, vous ay bien voulu advertir touchant l'entreprinse que depuis quelque temps en çà avons tramée sur la ville de Nieupoort, dont par ledit S<sup>r</sup> de S<sup>te</sup>-Aldegonde avez aussi esté adverty. Car, pour avoir entièrement gagné les volontés des Anglois qui y sont dedans, l'ordre y est mis tel que pour le faict de l'exécution nous n'attendons que le temps et l'heure que par ensemble nous prendrons, et y ayant dépesché à cest effect homme exprès, depuis n'aguerres aussi Anglois pour entièrement le conclure, je vous prie que le faciez entendre à Mons<sup>r</sup> de Walsingham, luy priant bien affectueusement, de ma part, qu'après que serons venus au bout de ceste nostre entreprinse, il vueille tenir la main et assister ces bonnes gens qui nous font ce bon et signalé service de sa faveur et recommandation envers Sa Majesté partout où il conviendra, à ce qu'ils ne chargent sur eux la malle grâce de Sa Majesté à nostre occasion. J'en eusse escript moy-mesmes à Mons<sup>r</sup> de Walsingham, n'eût esté que je erains qu'il ne seroit content de se mesler si avant en nos affaires, et par tant m'a semblé meilleur de le traicter par vostre moyen. Et à tant me recommandant à vostre bonne grâce, prieray Dieu, S<sup>r</sup> Lucas de Heere, vous donner, en santé, vie longue.

De Middelborg, ce vr<sup>e</sup> de juillet 1576.(Record office, Cal., n<sup>o</sup> 855.)

## MMMCLXXIV.

*Philippe de Marnix au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBORG, 19 JUILLET 1576.)

Il ne négligera rien pour maintenir la bonne intelligence avec l'Angleterre. — Les soldats espagnols se mutinent. — En Brabant on feint de désirer la paix. — On annonce que Don Juan amènera des renforts.

Monsieur, La lettre que j'escris par le capitaine Urd et la suffisance de MM. les députés de Sa Majesté, m'excusera de ne faire icy longue déduction. Ceste servira seu-

lement pour vous assurer que je demeureray tousjours tel, en vostre endroit, comme j'estime que vous confiez en moy; et, quant au publicq, je travailleray en toutes matières que paix et bonne intelligence se puisse maintenir entre le royaume d'Angleterre et ce pays-icy. Je voudroy y avoir tel crédit que je puisse plus faire, mais assurez-vous que tout ce que je pourray sera employé à ceste fin; cependant je vous prie m'avoir pour recommandé en vostre bonne grâce et, si par aventure, j'estoye chargé par delà de quelque chose comme du passé, n'y vouloir adjouster foy sans m'avoir ouy, et me faire ceste faveur de supplier Sa Majesté ne me vouloir tenir pour autre que pour celuy qui luy est et sera toute sa vie serviteur très-humble et très-affectionné, ainsy qu'à la vérité je suis très-obligé à l'estre.

De nouvelles il n'y a rien par deçà que vous ne puissiez plus particulièrement entendre par lesdicts sieurs députés. Les Espagnols se sont mutinés avec les Wallons à Ziericxee <sup>1</sup>. Dans le pays de Brabant y a aussi un extrême mécontentement à l'endroit

<sup>1</sup> Les mutinés de Zierickzee allèrent, comme ils l'avaient annoncé, porter leurs réclamations et leurs menaces jusqu'aux portes de Bruxelles.

J'emprunte aux collections du *British Museum* le document suivant :

*Discours véritable sur ce qui est advenu, touchant le alborote et esmotion des Espaignnols mutinés ès isles de Zélande incontinent après la prinse de Ziericxee, le second de juillet 1576.*

Lorsque l'on estoit encoires devant la ville de Ziericxee, les soldats espaignnols, estants audiet siège, déclairoient à plaine bouche ouvertement que, incontinent la rendition de ladite ville, ils se vouloient retirer et se venir refreschir en Brabant et nommément en la ville de Bruxelles où ils disoient avoir esté mal traités, usants de plusieurs bravades et propos plains de menaces.

Dont Messeigneurs du Conseil d'Estat commis par Sa Majesté au gouvernement général des pays de pardeçà advertis, congnoissants que par la victoire que l'on devoit espérer de l'ennemy en usant de l'occasion présente (selon que lediet ennemy estoit pressé) avoient par tous moyens procuré de empescher ce desseing, en taschant de donner contentement tant à eulx que aux Walons et aultres ayants servi en ce siège.

Tellement que lesdicts seigneurs du Conseil, pour obvier à ceste mutinerie apparente, auroient déclaré estre contents que les cent mil florins, donnés par ceulx de ladicte ville de Ziericxee, fussent répartis entièrement sans riens réserver entre lesdits gens de guerre ayants assisté audiet siège, et que outre ce l'on procéderoit au descompte desdits soldats avecq secours tels que seroient en leur pouvoir, dont en la raison se devoient bien contenter lesdits soldats.

Ce nonobstant, lesdicts Espaignnols amutinés auroient chassé leurs capitaines et officiers, abandonnants les lieux de leurs gardes et forts, et seroient en bien grande furie passé outre en Brabant, où, ayant confirmé les conjurations sous le sacrement de la messe faite en les chemins, sont venus à Herentals, auquel lieu par ordonnance desdits seigneurs du Conseil se est trouvé vers eulx en personne Monsieur le Comte de Mansfelt avecq pouvoir et instruction, leur ayant de la part d'iceulx seigneurs offert tout ce que raisonnablement ils pouvoient demander et quy estoit au pouvoir desdits seigneurs, sy comme pardon de leur mésus, leur part ès cent mil florins de Ziericxee, troys payes des premiers



des gouverneurs pour les foulles et outrages des soldats, lesquels à faute de payement ne sont tenus à aucune discipline, et les Estats refusent de contribuer si on ne fait la paix : à quoy ceux du Conseil font semblant de vouloir entendre, et cependant font tous appareils au contraire. Ils font courir le bruit que Monsieur de Havré doit venir d'Espagne avec pleine commission pour effectuer la paix ; mais, au contraire, ils ont charge secrète de n'y entendre aucunement, avecq promesse de bref et signalé secours à amener

deniers qui viendront de Espagne ou aultrement seroient au pouvoir desdits du Conseil avec monstre générale.

Ce que ne ayants voulu accepter demandèrent plusieurs choses impertinentes et non faisables, sy comme oultre leur dict payement totale augmentation de soulde, aussi quelque bonne ville en leur pouvoir, tant que l'on auroit descompté et que ils seroient du tout contentés, et aultres choses impertinentes.

Et combien que ils eussent promis estants en une ville de se quiéter, attendant la responce de mesdiets seigneurs, néantmoins ne essoient, veullants toujours occuper lediet Bruxelles, et de fait auroient escript lettres au magistrat de Malines, demandants passaige par ladite ville et logement de une nuit seulement, disants que il convenoit ainsy pour achever leur voyage, ce que leur fust refusé par lesdits de Malines assistés lors de une enseigne de Walons que on avoit envoyé à leurs secours.

Quoy voyant seroient par dehors ladite ville passé oultre et venu loger à Grimberghe, deux lieues dudit Bruxelles, où furent envoyés lettres dudiet seigneur Comte de Mansfelt en responce de leursdites prétentions quy furent portées par le cappitaine Montesdoça, quy alla vers eux, auquel donnèrent quelques répliques, non sans démonstration de se vouloir renger à la raison, promettans ne bouger de là et y attendre la résolution du Conseil.

Au lieu de satisfaire à leurdiete promesse partirent incontinent tirants au villaige de Assche et aultres lieux alentour dudiet Bruxelles avec menaces de y entrer par force et faire plusieurs vengeancees, quy a donné occasion au peuple de se eslever, prendre les armes et se préparer pour se mettre en défense contre force et violence.

Et depuis a derechief esté envoyé vers lesdits amutinés lediet Montesdoça, lequel ils ont rechassé furieusement à coups de harquebouses sans le vouloir escouter, néantmoins après le ont remandé par lettres pour se trouver vers eulx, comme il a fait le lendemain audiet Assche, et luy promirent que ils se assableroient illeceq pour incontinent envoyer toute responce et résolution dont ils donnèrent grande assurance.

Au contraire de quoy et au lieu de envoyer leurdiete responce au mesme jour, sont partis de là et à l'impourveu donné l'assault par divers costés à la ville d'Alost, y faisant toute hostilité et tué plusieurs tant païsans que bourgeois, mesmes pendu devant la porte de la ville ung sergeant officier du Roy, tellement que de nuit seroient entrés de force et hostilement en ladite ville avec cris espouventables, faisant les insolences que bon leur a semblé.

Ce que a donné très juste occasion ausdiets seigneurs du Conseil, voyant leur désobéissance sy obstinée et préjudiciable au service de Dieu et du Roy, pour les mésus et actes susdits, mesmement que ils continuoient encoires leurs menaces sur les villes de Bruxelles, Anvers et Malines, de les déclarer désobéissants, rebelles et ennemis du Roy et du pays, entendant procéder à leur chastoy tel que sera trouvé convenir pour les remettre en l'obéissance de Sa Majesté et des chiefs que Sa Majesté

par Don Juan d'Austria de lever 12,000 hommes, qu'Italiens que Espagnols, pour avec iceux descendre par deçà en cas que le François se bouge, ou autrement venir devant par la poste, et les faire suyvre après. Voilà ce que l'on nous mande des Pays-Bas. Quant aux affaires de France, j'entendray plus tost de vous que non pas de vous en escrire, et, finissant ceste par me recommandant à vostre bonne grâce, prieray Dieu vous donner, Monsieur, en santé, vie bonne et longue.

Escrit à Middelbourg, ce xix<sup>e</sup> juillet 1576.

L'entièrement vostre bon amy à vous faire service,

PH. DE MARNIX.

(Publié dans les *Bulletins de la Commission royale d'histoire*, 5<sup>e</sup> série, t. II, p. 582.)

leur a commis, pour aussy faire cesser plus grandes révoltes des subjects se voyants ainsy indignement et sans leur mérites traictés des propres gents de guerre de Sa Majesté qui les debvroient défendre.

Et partant comme ceste voye de déclaration ne se extend ailleurs, ny à aultre fin que contre lesdicts amutinés ayants sy violement traicté les subjects de Sa Majesté, mesdicts seigneurs ont bien voulu le faire entendre partout, afin que chascun sçache le grand tort desdicts amutinés, et avecq quel fondement lesdicts seigneurs ont esté contrainct à faire ladiete déclaration et de procéder contre eux par la voye que ils sont d'intention faire pour conserver les pays et trouver moyen de renger lesdits amutinés à la raison et en l'obéissance et devoir que ils doivent au service de Sa Majesté, et non (comme lesdicts amutinés s'efforcent faulsement persuader aux aultres soldats) en intention de frustrer les gens de guerre de leur juste payement, soyent Espagnols, Walons, Allemans, haults et bas, et aultres de quelque nation que ils soyent, auxquels l'on entend satisfaire de leurdiect deu, avecq assurance que lesdicts seigneurs donneront tout ordre que soit ce pendant raisonnablement pourveu à leurs prests et secours, tant que, les descomptes faictes et provisions de Sa Majesté venues, ensemble assistance des Estats, ils ayent moyen de satisfaire à tous, comme est l'intention de Sa Majesté et la leur.

Défendant bien expressément par Sa Majesté pour ne allumer le feu plus de ce que il ne est, que personne, quel que il soit, gents de guerre, ny aultre quelque il soit, ne ait à se joindre ou tenter quelque chose sur villes, forteresses, villaiges ou subjects en façon que se soit.

Commandant pareillement à tous chiefs et capitaines de guerre de tenir en bon ordre et discipline leursdicts gents sans les souffrir sortir de leurs garnisons, ny faire désordres quelsconques, et à tous gouverneurs, officiers, magistrats des pays et villes, aussy aux subjects, de ne toucher aux personnes des gents de guerre, estants en leurs garnisons, et non estants alborotés, ny mutinés, afin que l'on vive en bonne paix et union paresemble, comme il convient à subjects et personnes estants au serment et service de Sa Majesté.

Faict à Bruxelles, le second jour du moys de aoust 1576.

(*Domestic papers*, vol. 408, n<sup>o</sup> 77.)

MMMCLXXV.

*Edward Chester à lord Burleigh.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 20 JUILLET 1576.)

Le prince d'Orange a promis de restituer les navires anglais. — On attend quatre mille Français. — Paul Buys et ses amis s'y opposent par affection pour les Anglais; mais Marnix, malgré les bienfaits qu'il a reçus d'Élisabeth, soutient les Français. — Le prince d'Orange ne paraît pas se préoccuper du mécontentement de la reine d'Angleterre et favorise peu les Anglais. — La flotte espagnole est bloquée à Brauwershaven.

Although, Right honorable, I am well assured that the certeyne occurrences of these partes shall at large be delyvered unto Your Honour both by Sir William Winter and M<sup>r</sup> Beale, yet can not I omytt in discharge of my dewty (having bene so many waies most bownden to your honourable goodnes) to signifie also my simple knowledge and observations to Your Honour since myne aryvall. I aryved in Sealand the eight day of this present moneth, making my first repaire to Sir William Winter, whom partly I gave to understand of Your Lordship's speches had with me at my departure, concerning the great displeasure conceyved by Her Majestie at the outragius dealinges of the Flusshingers with her merchantes, willing me, as occasion served, to let the Prince understand the same, using such perswations to His Excellencie, as might the rather move him to such dealinges as might in parte so satisfie Her Majestie as that her wonted goodwill (ever borne towards him and the cause) might rather contynew to his benefit then by such sinister dealinges be chaunged to his damage and utter ruyne. Sir William's opinion was that in no case I showld use any such speche to His Excellencie as might induce him to the lest suspiccion of Her Majestie's such discontentment as might make him distrust that revenge for these outrages would follow, for, said M<sup>r</sup> Winter : « I finde the Prince of such minde as, if any such suspiccion grow, I faile of all I secke, » and the Prince, so careles what maye ensue, will endeavour all forther spoyle of Her » Majestie's subjectes, having now the forehand and start. » According to which his opinion M<sup>r</sup> Winter hath very wisely proceeded with His Excellencie and by his great temperance and curtesie hath at length, though not without sundry delaies and troubles, wrought the shippes of the Merchant Adventurers at libertie with their loding. The conditions agreed uppon betwixt them I referr to his owne discourse, which understood together with his other proceedings here, I doubt not but the Prince his dispositions with intendmentes will perfectly appere unto Your Honour as in a glasse; and how

daungerous they may be to Her Majestie and our Estate, if carelesly they be suffred to passe, Your Honour will soone judge <sup>1</sup>.

Th'aryvall of 4,000 Frenchmen from Monsieur are dayly expected : it ys confessed by a gentleman of the Prince of Condie's (that now is with the Prince) that they are in readines and staie onely for money to be sent from the Prince of Orenge.

The cuntrie are not very joyfull of such succours, and speecially the Hollanders, who purpose to resist th'entrance of any of them their, and to that end have the better sort of the magistrates assembled in the Brill, where, under colour of providing thinges necessaric for the towne and hastening the fortyfications, their in hand they remayne. The plott of this is drawn by Monsieur Pawle Buisse, who with the Count of Culing-

<sup>1</sup> Aux négociations de William Winter en Zélande se rapporte la lettre suivante d'un réfugié anglais :

Yours of the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> of july camme not to my handes before this present day the xvj<sup>th</sup> of this instant. Of the taking of letters and other thinges directed to Sr . . . . . with the shippe that they camme in, by the Flusshingers, the Countesse of Northumberland hathe hard before, as by myne of the viij<sup>th</sup> of this instant in answere of William Cotton of the first of the same, I partly signified unto you, and that the owner's name of the shippe aforsaid was . . . . ., who (as was supposed) was agayne set at libertie, as Philipp Allen and others were by Mr Wynter's meane. For the letters and the displeasure that the Countesse of Northumberland hath by the lacke of them, the Countesse of Northumberland doth not much force, but this . . . . . conceavithe that, if . . . . . had bene a man trustie or so honest as he was supposed to be, he might have founde the meanes after his libertie that the said letters and th'others might, either by Philipp Allen or summe other lyke trustie man by whom he had opportunitie and conveniencce enoughe to have sent them, have bene brought to light and to have cummed to saif handes so as they might have bene delivered wher they were dew. This I say : if they were not at the first made away, which also by summe meane might have bene intimated to have geven satisfaction to all parties. Therfor I thought good to advise you what and how muche the Countesse of Northumberland conceavithe in this parte, to th'ende that William Cotton may be warned and better advised herafter of suche slipper fellowes, or how he deale with, trust or credite them, least therby he be deceaved, expecting notwithstanding to heare from William Cotton agayn what he shalbe hable to learne owt, or certentie that he can finde of this matter, that I may therof fully advise the Countess of Northumberland.

We have had many reportes here of great starres and trobles in your partes, wherof yours make no mention, and as you levie and take up men ther, so do they in these partes to camme thither to serve. Many say notwithstanding that those differences wilbe accorded and will shortly grew to a pacification, but this levieng on all sides doth shew small lykclode therof, and for my parte I do not yett muche wissh, nor desire it; but, if William Cotton in the meane spede of any thing to helpe to put over for the tyme, I am glad therof, and wolde have him to shuffle out amongst them yett a monethe or two longer till the commyng of a new Gouvernour, at which tyme (as I wrote unto him in my last) I trust he shall finde cause of conforte and more satisfaction for himself, his particuler and kynde of service.

(Dom. pap., vol. 108, n° 80.)

burgh impeach all they may the french proceedings, and accordingly, as much as in their power is, endeavour to advance the honour of Her Majestie in those partes with the credit of all our nation. And this I dare presume of them both that, if yet Her Majestie would encline to their relief, she should finde the hole cuntrie of Holland and Waterland at her owne devotion by their meanes. Truly, My Lord, I am bound to let Your Honour understand of the great zeale and affection that in all causes I see they faithfully beare Her Majestie and our cuntrie, for which truly their credit is greatly empaired with the Prince, in whose grace standes specially Aldegonde the onely furtherer of the french affaires and enemye of ours. Her Majesties honourable curtesie employed on him at his being in England is not the best deserved. Pawle Buisse praith Your Honour of pardon that he hath not written to Your Honour : he saith that nothing is said or done in Her Majestie's Coorte be it never so secret but, if it concerne the Prince, he getteth straight intelligence therof. Yet saith he that he hath delyvered to Mr Ortell such occurrences as are wourthie Your Honour's knowledge, who from tyme to tyme hath accordingly advertised Mr Herlle therof to Your Honour's behoof. It hath bene told me in Holland that the Prince litle valueth Her Majestie's displeasure, and hath sought to have them of Holland and Waterland take part with him and the Zelanders in all causes that may happen betwixt Her Majestie and them ; but they have refused the same, being sory that the Prince and Sealanders doo take such coorse as may justly procure her indignation against them ; and, as they have refused the same, so am I suer that, while they here from Her Majestie, they will enter into no determination to or fro, but rest at her devotion. Sir William Winter hath promised that with all convenient spede that may be I shalbe given to understand of Her Majestie's pleasure concerning th'Estate of Holland, wherof I have delyvered him brief notes for the service of Her Majestie ; for, weare it not in respect that I hope to doo Her Majestie such service as happely may deserve thankses , I would make small aboad in these partes. For I finde the Prince hath no affection to our nation, neyther will that wee be placed in any place of credit or charge, and therefore small credit can I gaine to make myne aboad, where no better opinion is had of us. Those few number of ansignes that are of our nation, are separated into divers places, wherof three are in the isle called Olkensplate, over against Sirickzeas iland towards the north. Their wee attend with many moe soldiers of the Prince's the cumming over of th'enemies from out of Sirickzea isle, where yet the most part of them that were at the siege, remayne, but hitherto have they nothing attempted. The xvij saile of shippes that in the beginning of a[pril] past came from Dunkerk and entred Browershaven, a[re] still their, neyther can gett forthe, unles they will fight with the Prince his shippes who ride to the number of a dozen before the haven, attending howerly their forth cumming ; and other number of the Prince his shippes lie by Bergenop-Zome, where they pretend to impeche the victuall that should pass from Braband

to Sirickzeas, in which place (th'iland being all drowned) they have no victuall but such as is browght them.

Thus have I bene bowld with my tedious scribled letters to trouble Your Honour, most humblie beseeching the same to give thanks to Sir William Winter and M<sup>r</sup> Beale for their frendship and curtesies shewed me since their here being. Even so beseeching Almighty God to send you long lif with encrease of much honour, I most humbly take my leave.

From Middleburgh, this xx<sup>th</sup> of july 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n<sup>o</sup> 852.)

### MMCLXXVI.

#### *Le prince d'Orange aux lords du Conseil privé.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 21 JUILLET 1576.)

Il espère trouver chez eux un sympathique appui.

Messieurs, Les députés de Sa Majesté, ayants esté présens à ce qui s'est passé et traicté icy, vous pourront rendre ample tesmoignaige comment nous avons receu à grande faveur et honneur l'envoy d'iceulx, au moien de quoy nous sentans très-obligés à Sa Majesté, de tout nostre cœur désirons luy faire tousjours paroistre l'entière dévotion et zèle qu'avons à son très-humble service. D'autre costé aussy, l'estat et nécessité de ces pays-icy, laquelle ils ont cogneu à plain et dont ils vous pourront faire ample récit, nous donne ferme espoir qu'il plaira à Sa Majesté et à vous aultres, Messieurs, l'avoir tousjours pour recommandé et luy impartir, tant que possible sera, les faveurs d'icelle, et que pour ce regard prendrez de bonne part et aurez pour bon et agréable et mesmes tiendrez la bonne main envers Sa Majesté afin qu'elle ayt pour agréable ledict traicté icy passé, comme semblablement à ce qu'il luy plaise de sa grâce bénévolement entendre et consentir aux aultres poinets que j'ay prié lesdicts députés luy vouloir déclarer de nostre part, dont certes vous supplie très-affectueusement, vous assurant que tant s'en fault que je voudrois consentir en chose qui peult tourner au préjudice de la réputation et grandeur de Sa Majesté que mesme je tiendray à très-grande faveur d'estre estimé celuy qui par tous moiens possibles désireroit de tout son cœur la veoir accreue et aggrandie. Et à cela vous vous povez assurer, Messieurs, que, toutes et quantes fois que Sa Majesté m'honorera de ses commandemens, je m'y employeray très-volontiers, comme aussy en vostre endroict seray prest à vous faire

tout service d'aussy bon cœur que, vous présentant mes très-affectueuses recommandations à vos bonnes grâces, je prie Dieu vous donner, Messieurs, en santé, heureuse vie et longue.

Escript à Middelbouch, ce xxx<sup>e</sup> jour de juillet 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 853.)

MMCLXXVII.

*Convention entre les députés de la reine d'Angleterre et le prince d'Orange.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 21 JUILLET 1576.)

Restitution réciproque des navires qui ont été arrêtés.

Comme ainsi soit que par cy-devant aucuns arrests ont esté faits tant de quatre bateaux de guerre appartenantes à très-haut et puissant seigneur le Prince d'Orenge, les Estats et aucuns inhabitants du pays de Zélande, au port de Falmouth en Angleterre, comme aussy depuis encor de plusieurs bateaux et navires chargés avec marchandises appartenantes à la compagnie des Marchans Aventuriers et autres subjects de la Sérénissime Roïne d'Angleterre, en la ville de Flissingues et devant le chatteau de Rammecken, audiet pays de Zélande, pour le relaschement desquels il a pleu à Sadite Majesté d'envoyer le seigneur Guillaume Winter, chevalier, et Robert Beale, gentilhomme, ses députés pour tra[iter] avecq ledit seigneur Prince, après quelque desbat desdits différens et matières d'un costé et d'autre, a esté amiablement accordé et vouché entre ledit seigneur Prince et lesdits députés comme s'ensuit :

Premièrement ledit seigneur Prince, pour le très-grand désir qu'il a de rendre toute obéissance due à Sa Majesté et contentement à ses subjects, a promis et promet sur son honneur et parole de prince, de relascher dès maintenant les quatorse navires appartenantes aux Marchans Aventuriers, tant allant en Anvers que retournans en Angleterre, avec toutes leurs marchandises, fournitures et équippage pour parasehever leur voiage destiné. Et outre ledit seigneur Prince fera relascher une aultre navire appelée *le Henry* de Londres avecq sa fourniture. Item deux autres bateaux chargés de sucres venans de Barbarie, appartenans à quelques marchans de Londres, dont l'une est appelée *la Marie Fortune* de Londres desjà deschargée par sentence de la Court de l'Admiralité de Flessingues, et l'autre nommée *le Robert Bonaventure*. Item trois autres navires appelées *le M. . . .*, *la Marie Fortune*, venans d'Espagne chargées avecq des

huyles, se. . . et autres marchandises, appartenants aux subjects de la Royne d'Angleterre. Ainsy que desdits vingt navires, six des Marchans Aventuriers ont esté desjà relaschées pour aller en Anvers. Aussy qu'un autre qu'est demouré derière, puisse librement sans aucun arrest ou empeschement aller audit lieu d'Anvers et les autres quatorse, c'est assçavoir huyet des Marchans Aventuriers et les susdits navires appellées *le Henry* de Londres, *la Marie Fortune*, *le Robert Bonaventure*, *le Mignon*, *la Marie Martine* et *la Marie Fortune* en manière comme dessus puissent faire voile et retourner librement sans aucun arrest ou empeschement en Engleterre avecq ledit seigneur Winter et Robert Beale.

Et nous lesdits Guillaume Winter, chevalier, et Robert Beale, gentilhomme, députés de la Sérénissime Royne d'Angleterre vers ledit haut et puissant seigneur Prince d'Orenge, promettons, en vertu de la commission et pouvoir à nous donné de la part de Sa Majesté, de faire restituer, dedens six sepmaines ou plustost si fere se pourroit, quant nous serons retournés en Angleterre, sans aucune procédure, arrests ou empeschement et sans aucune faute ou délai, audit seigneur Prince ou à son commis, lequel aura commandement dudit seigneur de s'adresser avecq le seigneur Winter pour ledit faict de quatre batteaux équipés à la guerre n'aguère arrestés audit pays d'Angleterre et de la poursuite de quelques habitans particuliers dudict pays, et ce en tel estat qu'ils ont esté trouvés le jour de leur arrest, tant en ce que concerne la fabrique desdits batteaux, qu'artilleries, vivres et munitions et toutes autres choses appartenantes qui sont parvenues entre les mains d'aucuns officiers ou subjects de ladite Royne d'Angleterre à cause dudit arrest. Et outre aussy, en vertu de notre commission et pouvoir devant dit, nous avons asseuré et asseurons ledit seigneur Prince d'Orenge que dorénavant les batteaux de ceux qui tiennent le party dudit seigneur Prince, soit qu'ils soient armés ou autrement, ne recevront nul dommage, empeschement, arrest, ni facherie en manière quelconque par les batteaux de la Royne ou autres subjects de Sa Majesté, pourveu qu'iceux qui tiennent le party dudict seigneur Prince, ne feront aucun acte qui seroit à préjudice de l'honneur et prérogative royalle de Sa Majesté, et aussy qu'ils ne traicteront les subjects de Sa Majesté injustement.

Et, pour plus grande assurance de ce que dessus, deux semblables escrits ont esté faits d'une mesme teneur et parolle, l'un signé par ledit Seigneur Prince et l'autre par nous les susdits Guillaume Winter et Robert Beale.

Faict à Middelbourg, ce xxj<sup>e</sup> de juillet 1576.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. V, n° 98.*)



## MMMCLXXVIII.

*Requête du prince d'Orange.*

(MIDDELBURG, 23 JUILLET 1576.)

Conventions à conclure avec les Marchands Aventuriers. — Protection réclamée pour les navires zélandais. — Affaire de Jean de Beaulieu.

*Les points et articles à demander très-humblement à Sa Majesté de la part du seigneur Prince d'Orenge et les Estats des pais de par-deçà.*

Premièrement qu'il luy plaise octroyer et accorder que les Marchans Avanturiers, suyvant le contract icy faiet, puissent nous faire tenir deux cent pièces d'artillerie des Gotelings <sup>1</sup>.

Item que lesdits sieurs Prince et Estats de ce pais puissent sous la bonne grâce de Sa Majesté contracter avec lesdits Marchants Avanturiers et autres sur quelques gratuités à faire auxdits pays en respect de leur passage et traffique.

Item qu'il plaise à Sa Majesté nous faire la faveur que nos navires et vaisseaux ne puissent doresnavant estre arrestés en respect des sentences données par l'Admirauté par-deçà ou autrement pour choses qui concernent la cause générale, sans qu'ayons esté ouys préallablement en nos deffenses.

Item qu'il plaise à Sa Majesté avoir mémoire du fait de Jean de Beaulieu, touchant le procès contre Benedetto Spinola, ainsi que Son Excellence luy en a escript quelque fois, à ce qu'il puisse en obtenir bonne et briefve justice.

Faiet à Middelburch, ce xxiii<sup>e</sup> de juillet 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 854.)

<sup>1</sup> En ce moment, le prince d'Orange entretenait d'étroites relations avec les seigneurs mécontents des provinces méridionales des Pays-Bas pour en chasser les Espagnols. C'est ainsi qu'il écrivait le 1<sup>er</sup> août 1576 au seigneur de Hèze :

Monsieur mon cousin, aiant entendu que les Estats du pays se sont finalement résolus de ne souffrir plus longtans ceste tyrannie et insolence des Espagnols, laquelle les a desjà si longtans oppressés des-sous un joug trop infâme et intolérable, mais veuillent en faire une fin avec les armes en main, comme par leur office et serment ils sont tenus à Dieu et au peuple de le faire, et le devoient avoir fait longtans a, et qu'à cest effect, vous vous seriez employé avec toute vertu et magnanimité, je n'ay seeu obmectre de vous escrire la présente, pour vous congratuler de la part de toute la patrie.

(GACHARD, *Correspondance du prince d'Orange*, t. III, p. 106.)

## MMMCLXXIX.

*Mémoire de lord Burleigh.*

(AOÛT 1576?)

Il y a lieu d'examiner quelle conduite il est le plus avantageux d'adopter vis-à-vis du prince d'Orange, dans les relations avec la France et dans le gouvernement de l'Angleterre. — Considérations sur ces trois questions. — Divers remèdes entre lesquels il est urgent de se prononcer.

*A brief discourse laying forth the uncertainty of Her Majesty's present peace and quietness, to consider the action with the Prince of Orange, the present State of France and the inward corruption at home.*

Whosoever shall duly consider the issue of the present action Her Majestie is forced, in respect of her honor, to enter into against the Prince of Ourange, how the State of Fraunce at this instant standeth, and how the inwarde corruption at home encreaseth, shall by due consideracion of theis three pointes see it most apparaunte that the present quiet Her Majestie now enjoyeth, cannot longe continue.

And first towching the Prince of Orange, who hath ben a bridle to the malliee of Spayne, and hath, as it weare, kept warres by the space of fower yeres, or more, out of our gates : it is evident that he cannot longe continue, beinge assayled as he is by Spayne by land, and by Her Majesties forces by sea; and then the gates beinge oppen and the bridle taken away, what can Her Majestie looke for but such mischeeves as the spanish malliee can yeld, especyally now that Don Giovanni d'Austria repeyareth to the Low-Countryes? <sup>1</sup>

Secondarilye, if the State of Fraunce be duly considered, howe unlikely it is that the present peace there will longe continue, and on the other side how likely it is that Spayne will yeld unto Fraunce assistaunce against those of the religion, shall then see just cause to thincke that they shall not be longe hable to stand, whose faule is so joyned with our perill, as we may shake handes with peace.

Lastly, if we enter into due consideracion of our home corruption, what thorough backsliding in religion and other daungerous practises, we shall see the number of the malcontentes so encreased, as, if the two princes (being so evillie affected towardes Her

<sup>1</sup> La comtesse de Northumberland s'exprimait dans les termes suivants le 8 août 1576 :

It is written from Andwarpe that Don John d'Austria is proclaimed Governour of these Lowe-Countryes, and we are here perswaded that the mutiney of the Spaniards shalbe apeased and pacified, and they all satisfied with a pay. (*Dom. pap.*, fol. 108, n° 77.)

Majestie as they are) shall, by combininge of their forces together, have any will to revenge, they shall finde so great a partie here within this realme to provoke them thereto, as it is most grievous to a good subject to thincke of the perill that is like to ensue, and the smaule regarde that is had to the prevention thereof.

Now if we resorte unto the remedies, though many may be thought on, yet principallie they may be reduced to three.

The first to maintayne the Princee and the Fraunce faction affected unto Her Majestie.

The second, that being not thought honorable, then to seeke reconciliation with Spayne and Fraunce.

The third, the former two not allowed, then Her Majestie to settle her State at home.

Towehing the first, which is to mayntayne the Prince and the French faction affected to Her Majestie, men are loth to geve their advice therein for two respectes. The one for that Her Majestie hath with very bitter speeches repaid those that first advised her to assist the Protestants in Fraunce; the other for that Her Majestie thincketh it dishonorable and a matter against conscience to mayntayne rebells. But herein, towehing the advise geven to assiste the Protestauntes in Fraunce, if Her Majestie do weighe how before that tyme King Henry the French King, after the mariadge of his sonne with the Scotch Queene, did, by causing of her to beare the armes of England and by planting french garrisons in the fortes of Scotland, manifestly discover his intention to prosecute the said Queene of Scots tyle to the crowne of this realme, shall then see that the authors of that advice deserved rather prayse then blame. And as for that poinet, whereas it is thought dishonorable and against conscience to mayntayne rebells, if the question be considered in generallitie, as whether it be lawfull to mayntayne the King of Spaynes rebells, then most true it is that it cannot but be held for both dishonorable and against conscience. But, on the other side, if the question be propounded clothed with his due circumstances drawn from his generallitie, as, whether it be lawfull to mayntayne the rebells against the King of Spayne, who practised the late rebellion in the north, who dailie consumeth by fyer Her Heighnes subjectes, who confiscateth their goodes and who abused her Ambassador resident there, shall then see it a matter both lawfull and agreable with good conscience, the same not tending ambitiously to affect any of his dominions, but only to the defence of Her Majesties owne crowne and kingdomes. And of this opinion Her Majestie shall finde as many as are well affected unto her, ether at home or abroade: whereof, if she will make some triall at home, she shall finde that the question beinge propounded to such as do mislike of her gouvernement will make a conscience in the mayntenance of the King of Spaynes rebells, and yet will make no conscience when tyme shall serve to be rebellsa gainst Her Highnes and the present State, whose advise ought to be weighed accordingly.

Now to come to the second remedie, which is for Her Majestie to seeke reconciliation

with Spayne and Fraunce: first, if it be considered how they are affected in religion, what favor they beare to Her Majesties competitors, what injuries they conceave they have received, shall see it then altogether unlikely that any perfect reconciliation can ensue. If religion were only the impediment, then perhappes it weare likely that the reconciliation might follow by chainging of religion, but though in outwarte showe religion shall be the pretext, the crowne shall be the marke, which no chainge of religion can save.

Lastly, theis two former remedies not being allowed of, the one being thought dishonorable, the other unsound, then behoveth it Her Majestie to sette her state at home, which is to be don by execution of theis poinctes followinge.

First by assuring Scotland unto her.

Secondarily by keeping the Queens of Scotos more strayte, wherby she may be cut of from practise.

Thirdly by rewarding and countenauncing her nobilitie and others being men of vertue and value.

Fourthly by the avoyding of the execution of such thinges as maie breede any scandale or offence.

And lastly by the brideling of such as are evillie affected in religion.

These poinctes above mentioned tending to the setling of Her Majesties state at home, are as playne, as they neede no particular amplification.

To conclude, seeing it is apparaunte that the quiet and repose Her Majestie hath hether to enjoyed, hath wholly depended on the home troubles of the great princes her neighbours, and that by discourse of reason it is not like they can longe continue, it will behove Her Majestie, if she tender the continuance of her present quiet and repose, to looke into the perill out of hande, which can nether abyde any longe delay of consultation, nor stay in execution of that which may tend to the prevention thereof.

(*Record office, Dom. papers, vol 108, n° 82.*)

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### MMMCLXXX.

#### *Ordre du Conseil pour la répression de la piraterie.*

(1<sup>er</sup> AOUT 1576.)

Ordre est donné à William Holstoke de réprimer sévèrement les délits de piraterie.

(*British Museum, Harley, 168, n° 14.*)

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## MMCLXXXI.

*Ordre du Conseil pour la répression de la piraterie.*

(6 AOUT 1576.)

Confirmation de l'ordre donné le 1<sup>er</sup> août.*(British Museum, Harley, 168, n° 14.)*

## MMCLXXXII.

*William Herle à Edward Chester.*

(LONDRES, 7 AOUT 1576.)

Il a communiqué sa lettre à lord Burleigh qui y a immédiatement répondu. — Si le prince d'Orange ne veut pas écouter les avis qu'on lui donne, tout est perdu. — Vif mécontentement de la reine qui, plutôt que de tolérer les excès des Zélandais, les exterminerait tous. — Le prince d'Orange ne doit pas compter sur l'appui de la France. — Qu'il fasse acte de soumission; et il pourra espérer des secours secrets; mais, ce n'est point par des menaces qu'il obtiendra quelque chose de la reine. — Affection de la reine pour Paul Buys et le comte de Culenbourg. — Il est à désirer que la Hollande et la Zélande restent unies sous l'autorité du prince d'Orange; car, en dehors des habitants des villes, on ne voit point d'hommes importants qui dirigent les affaires. — Emprunt à conclure. — La reine reste fort irritée, et, quelle que soit l'estime qu'elle porte au prince d'Orange, elle blâme sévèrement ses actes; il importe de la calmer afin que les Protestants au delà de la mer ne soient point privés de son appui. — Il l'engage à marcher d'accord avec Paul Buys. — Le prince d'Orange a tout intérêt à s'entendre avec la reine, en ce moment où les mutineries des Espagnols lui sont si favorables. — S'il ne le fait point, sa cause est irrévocablement perdue.

My good M<sup>r</sup> Chester, I thanke you with all my hart for your longe and frendly lettre, which I receyved at your wives hands, uppon M<sup>r</sup> Winters commynge home. And consideringe the weightines of the cause and the greate diligence and care that ye used in the same, I coulde not but many waies commend your sufficiencye and the zealous loyaltie that you beare to your souveraigne here and to the contrey and your friends here, which I have not failed to sett furthe in suche sorte as I hope that I have to my power discharged the parte of a true and lovinge friende.

First, I dealt earnestly with Mr Winter and Mr Beale, declaring howe much you thought your self beholding to them for their favours showed unto you on that side and howe readie bothe you I and all your frendes here were ready to deserve it towards them, desiringe them to continewe their saide good will to you and to your causes, and nowe that the occasion was presented to lett Her Majestic and her Councell understande the carefullnes of mynde that ye had to doe her service and to deserve well of Her Majestic, of your contrey and of her saide Councell, which they not onely promised to doe very faithfully, but had they saide begonne allreadie the matter, geving your commendation to me that you were an honest and true gentleman, and that you had worthines and sufficiencie in you, whiche as I was gladd to here, so did I increase yt with the best skill I had.

Next for that your advertisementes and letter to me imported greate secresie and discession howe to proceede that some good might succede to the cause and that you shoulde not lose the merytt that you deserved, I thought therefor metest to shewe your whole lettre to My Lord Threasourer, saying that you desired me soe to doe, who used yt with that regarde that none lvinge sawe yt but him self, and returned yt to me baeke under two seales, with suche thanckfullnes to you, for the trust that you reposed in him as surelie it dothe bothe expresse an honorable opinion that he hathe of you and agreate likinge of the course that ye had taken, whom I left not till he had written you an answeere at large from Haveringe to all thinges with his owne hande, which containes suche matter in my opinion, as I guess that may doe the Prince greate service and the whole contrey, if they followe the advice that ye arre to geve thereby, which, if they doe contempne, the remedie of any good is past, and their generall ruine is at hande; for Her Majestic is so moved with their insolent dealinges of the Prince and his Zellanders as none dare move her to any consideration towards them, but all is sett uppon revenge of their lewde acts and worse speache, and to extermynе them owte of the worlde rather then to endure yt any longer. And, where the Prince pretends ayde owte of Fraunce, he dauncethe in a nett, and he see not that Her Majesty knoweth the contrarye and that herein he is greatly abused or sekith to abuse others, with small credit to himself and lesse assurance to his estate, when this maske is taken away. And lette him be assured uppon hasard of my liffe (which I wryte unto you and to Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys franckly to that ende that ye shall doe him good service to advertise him from me) that the French King and the Spanishe King arre rather bothe secretly lincked together to sette uppon hym and to overthrowe bothe him and his, with all the meanes and powers that they can make, yf they were once a litle seatled in Fraunce, which Her Majestic is well instructed of. And yet, if the French King shoulde in shewe inelyne hymself to ayde the Prynce, it were rather to entrappe him and betray the cause then for any true helpe that he woulde geve thereunto,

whereof, if the Prince be ignorant, then hathe he not that sufficiencie and perfection as he makes shewe of.

Nowe to remedie all this, there is but one way, M<sup>r</sup> Chester: that is that, if the Prince will excuse these former fowle acts and spoiles yt have ben committed by the Zelanders and arre daily continewed, praying Her Majesty to attribute them to necessitie and not to any mallice or will to offende and provoke Her Majestie, and that from henceforthe the matter shalbe redressed in suche sorte as the like shall not be committed againe, which cause once taken, the Prince's frendes here, that favour the cawse, will joyn together to quallesye Her Majestie's just displeasure, and no doubt sumwhat may be don by this meane to reconcile the Prince againe and to helpe him under hande, with some ayde to settle and confirme the strength of Holland and Zeland together. But, to say that Her Majesty who is a soverayne prince and greate monarche of her self, wilbe constreyned to doe any thing mawgre her will, were greate absurditie once to ymagyn yt, though the greatest prince in Europe were a partie therein, much lesse by those whome she forbears to be revenged of, more for compassion then she woulde not hurt them, then for want of sundry meanes that she hathe in store by her power to correct their mallice, to heavie for them to abyde, and yet, if they still provoke her with their robberies (which God and the world is greatly offended with), it will light to sone uppon them, and then to late to be considered of or to be withdrawn.

And where they object that it is a generall cause and commune with Her Majestie that they meyntheyne, bothe for Religion and suretie of her Estate with theirs (whiles they violate bothe Religion, justice and suretie), and therefore she must assist them of verie necessyitie and consequently endure all other thinges at their hands, alack! they be to farre deceyved herein, though it were as true as they immagyn yt untruly. For Her Majestie hathe no nede to entre into unnecessary warres for them or any others, unprovoked, neither is this greate argument of that necessitie or wisdom to move her conscience or her Estate to be soe overruled and concluded thus rowndly by them as they woulde perswade her, and yet her puissance is sufficient with the justice of her cause to repulse seasonably enough any wronge or force, when it is once offered.

But admitt it were otherwise, yet no prince of her quallitye and greatnes is to be compelled or to be dealt with by these arguments of necessitie. For, suche as she is, will hasard all rather then to be prescribed or forced by her inferiors or equalls or by any other, and the benefytt with all is thankles, that commes thus constreyned or wrested, which argues them then of small pollicye and lesse discession, that take suche a course with any soverayne personaige, which I once told the Prince himself of at large and the States, when I was in Holland, who thereuppon reformed their instructions for that tyme that their Commissioners had to deale for them here.

Therefore, M<sup>r</sup> Chester, I doe stay the longer upon this pointe of discourse that ye may see the growndes of these presumptions and that ye will conferre throughly with Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys of them, that, if by bothe your meanes you may induce the Prince to open the eyes of his reason and to behold thinges as they arre in deede (for he cannot hault with those that have the power to understande more than he dothe), he wilbe then enclyned to acknowledge his errors and the fowle ingratitude that is used to Her Majestie and her subjects, who beinge so greatelie and so many waies his frendes, howe would he deale with his ennemies that deales so turkishly with them that deserve so well and christianly of him? But his wise and tymely repressing of these extremities and his modest excuse to Her Majesty may mittigate her gracious and noble mynde, who is inclyned to doe good to all sortes, and hereuppon his frendes here will take occasion to accommodate thinges to his likinge againe, wherein I dare presume, M<sup>r</sup> Chester, to perswade you and Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys this farre that, if this course be taken, sumwhat ye same rounde portion will be voluntarily geven to the assistens of the cause and to aide bothe Zellande and Holland, but specially Holland to whom Her Majestie and all her Councell arre greatly inclyned, and so arre they to the good magistrates of the same, as to Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys, to the Conte of Culingburghe and the rest. But, for Mons<sup>r</sup> Buys, his credit is suche with the Queen's Majesty, My lorde Treasurer and My lord of Leyecester and the rest, as he may assure himself to enjoy as good an opinion here as any man dothe, that would prevaile as he dothe, of a sownde gravitie and sinceress, and may be privately assured of any good turns that he will desire here, either for himselfe or for his frendes: whereof I have a speciall charge to say thus muche to hym and to the Conte of Culingburghe, from the Qucen's Majestie's owne mouthe, besides the like charge from other of my good lordes.

Nowe, if ye can doe any good in this, it wilbe the best service that you and Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys coulde doe for that contrey, for your discreSSIONS and indevors shoulde wynne that whiche well nigh is desperate and restore that which is at a present ruyne withoute good dexteritie be used, and herein have a regarde allso to unyte Zellande and Hollande, and that the Prince's autoritie may rule them bothe, to the good of the common cause and of either contrey; for otherwise their separation is an apparant overthrowe of bothe, a distrust to others, and, beinge thus divided, not havinge the Prince of Orenge's cowntenaunce to direct thinges amongst them (as he hath don hetherto), the opinion of the whole is half overthrowen thereby. And, though Her Majestie dothe like very well of Holland and of the Hollanders and might be inclyned to have somme compassion of them, for the plaine and honest proceedinge they use, yet, when the matter shoulde be debated in Councell, they would looke with what greate personages they shoulde dele. And then seinge none but townesmen (for the Earle of Culingburgh is not of Hollande and he is but one), yt woulde hynder the good



entent, even for lacke of cowntenance, which many tymes is grownded more opinion then reason.

In all which things, yf I can doe the cause, the Prince, the contrey and my frendes there any good in these partes, I will leave all other things a syde to doe yt and imploy my travell, credit and power habilitie therein withowte any charge to them at all.

Likewise, where you doe write in your articles of cc<sup>m</sup> dollers that they of Holland might have for vj uppon the hundred, so ye assuraunce were liked, let Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys send me worde presently where it is to be had, and of whome and then what assurance woulde like them, and you shall here more by my next letters.

Nowe to shoue you what I did after the participation of your letter with my Lord Threasurer, I drewe owte the articles in a romaine hande, that Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys and you sent me, that, havinge accessse to Her Majestie, I might take the better occasion to deale with her for these Holland causes, and perticulerly to make mention of you and Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys; but I founde her so altred by the Zellanders doinges and the Prince's sufferaunce of them and by suche other owteragious dealinges, yt she was justly provoked with, as I durst scarce open my mouthe to speake a good worde of them. Yet surely Her Majesty, for the person of the Prince and for greate princely qualities that be in hym, which she made goode accompte of, speaking privately of him, gave him the best words of the world; but, when she came to distinguishe of his actions and theirs, howe imperiously or rather impiously they dealt with all men, specially with Christians and those that they were so muche bounde unto, and then howe ignorantly they dealt, knowinge that all their foundation shoulde depende of her good countenance and helpe towards them, which, when it were decayed, was bothe ther decay and ruyn, that I was putt to silence. Yet, beholdinge Her Majesty's good nature in praysinge privately in the Prince that which was praise worthy and publicquely condemninge the abuse that she fownde and was tied by princely dutie to see severely reformed, I did consider that, if a spedie and convenient plaster were applied to this corrosive sorte, it might be holpen and wholly remedied, which I thincke my dutie, M<sup>r</sup> Chester, to discharge unto you and to Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys, as to the lovers of the generall cause, if their be any in that place.

And, thus muche to the answere of your letter, savinge that I tooke occasion to speake of you to Her Majestie, who hathe a very good opinion of you, and, if nowe we coulde synde meanes to abate the Papistes pride and mirthe, who hope that they doe even possesse the Queen's Majesties ere, to egge her on to the utter ruyn of the Protestantes beyonde the seas, to the ende that with the same glave they may afterwarde cutt our throtes at home, you beinge auethor of ther contrarye shoulde deserve more then you did in all your actions hitherunto. And till you worcke an inclination there to begynne humblie and submissively first with Her Majestie, there is no dealinge with

her, howe greate soever ther partie or suggestion ys, that maye be prepared to enter-  
teyne her.

I talked with my Lord of Leycester of you, to whome certenly you were much  
beholdinge, and thancks you muche for your letter, promysinge to write shortly unto  
you and that he will not forgett what you write unto hym of, commending you many  
waies with all.

M<sup>r</sup> Winter was charged why he had not writen oftener to Her Majestie, who saide  
plainely that there was suche swift intelligence even of those thinges that Her Majestie  
did moste secretly, that he durst not wryte before his owne comminge, and woulde not  
deliver your articles to Her Majestie, but with his owne handes and those also sealed,  
which Her Majestic told me her self.

Communicate what you thincke mete herein with Mons<sup>r</sup> Pawle Buys, to whom with  
this packett I have writen a perticuler letter to this ende, as I have done to the like  
good purpose, I hope, to the Prince himself, and desire the said Buys, for his owne  
creditt sake to sollicite M<sup>r</sup> Skynner's busines the mercer. I have writen allso to Mons<sup>r</sup>  
S<sup>t</sup>-Aldegonde therein and to Secretary Bruninge.

Tell M<sup>r</sup> Ortell that he dothe not answeere either his promys or any parte of the  
remembraunce that he tooke with him from me. I delivered M<sup>r</sup> Secretary Walsingham  
that you writt to him, but I herde no more of yt.

Piers is come home and sheweth himself a very weake man.

So desyring you to write often, I will conclude with this: that, if the Prince doe seke  
Her Majesty's good will, the mutiny that is nowe in Brabant and Flaunders against the  
Spaniards and first provoked by them, will doe him and the whole cause greate good;  
but, if he hereken not to so good counsell: *Nemo læditur nisi a seipso*. And, when all  
is don, England and Englishemen must doe him good and helpe him, or ells he is utterly  
undon. And I wey not his judgement worth a grete, if he foresce not this <sup>1</sup>.

Wryte often and spedelie.

So in haste, haste, a thowsand tymes farewell.

From London as I was ridinge oute of towne the viii<sup>th</sup> of august 1576.

(*British Museum, Galba, C. V, n° 297. — Archives d'Hatfield. — Publié  
par MURDIN, Hatfield papers, p. 296.*)

<sup>1</sup> Le docteur Dale écrivait, le 6 juillet 1576, que les agents du prince d'Orange, malgré toutes les  
promesses qui leur avaient été faites, n'espéraient plus le secours du roi de France.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 854.*)

## MMMCLXXXIII.

*Avis des Pays-Bas*<sup>1</sup>.

(ANVERS, 12 AOUT 1576.)

Levées de troupes pour combattre les mutinés; le commandement sera confié à M. de Hèze. — Conférences du duc d'Arschot avec les mutinés qui occupent Alost. — Menaces des mutinés. — Le marquis d'Havré s'est rendu à Gand. — Négociations avec Sanche d'Avila. — La flotte des Gueux s'est avancée jusqu'à Anvers.

The sixt of this present being monday, the dromm was stricken about the towne of Bruxels with cry whosoever would serve the King and Councell of States were to come to the market place, at the signe of the Wolfe, where his name should be entred, and, the muster being taken, a moneth's pay to be delivered in hand: the harquebusyers seven gilderns and the pikemen ten, since which cry divers are entred into service and muster to the number of 2400.

The like was cried in Lovayn and in divers other townes, wherein there are likewise very many redy to serve. Their general is Monsieur de Hees, brother of the Baron of Gaesbecke, which married the Countie of Egmonte's eldest daughter.

The Councell of States are joyned with the States of Brabant and Flaunders, agreeing in one against the Spanish rebels or such as will take their partes, and th'abbotes (as is credibly reported) will disburse  $\frac{1}{3}$  parte of the mony graunted towardses the levieng of men against the revolters.

The mutyned Spaniardes withing Alst had sent on monday morning a letter to the Duke of Aerschot excusing their insolencie, with request to speake with him, whom they onely take and know as their good lord and patron, with many such like circumstances as they alleadged.

The Councell hereupon assembled and finding it so good that they should be hard, the Duke redily toke th'office upon him, and on tuesday about 4 of the clocke in th'afternoon, accompanied with his band of ordinance and divers gentlemen, rode that night to Lickerken, the next morning sent his trumpet to Alst, where the Spaniardes upon his coming assembled themselves together and after consultation had sent 4 of their company, by report of divers, the veriest raskals of the heape, which came and conferred with the Duke as proudly and arrogantly as if he had been their inferior, insomuch as

<sup>1</sup> Cet avis porta la signature de Henri Gilpin.

Monsieur de Noyels rebuked them, unto whom they answered that they were both good gentlemen and old souldiers, and did no further then they were commaunded by the *Señores amutinados*. Their conference past, returned to the towne to make answer of their discourse with the Duke, which donn returned agayne to the Duke with promise that they would send him answer after they they had consulted thereupon, to which end the Duke left his trumpetter and departed towardses Bruxels.

The Spaniardes returned the trumpetter that night with letters with their full resolution, which being not altogether allowed of by the lordes of the Councell, returned the trumpet the next day in th'afternoon with their answer, wherewithall it is thought the mutined wilbe scantly well pleased, and so all in no better state then at the first, but rather worse.

On monday last, certayn Spaniardes ment to have taken the castell of Ripelmond and of Tempsicke, but were disapointed.

Tuesday morning, there was a proclamation made in Bruxels excusing the false rumour which was spred that the Councell should be stayed as prisoners by those of the towne.

There are 12 ensignes of footemen, being of th'old garrisons, in redines at the Councel's comaundment and lie within 4 or 5 miles of Bruxels.

Thre or 4 haundes of ordinance are also up about Bruxels and are licenced by the States to buye such horses as they shall find fit to serve their tornes, for the payment of which the Councell wilbe answerable, and shalbe so much rebated of their payments which they are behind hand of.

The mutined Spaniardes have sent divers letters to the villages about Alst and within the compas of 2 leagues, to provide certein somes of mony being rated to eech place's ablenes and to send the same unto them, or els threaten with fire, force and spoile of their goodes.

Monsieur Havré is gonn to Ghent there to make report aswell of his answer from the King as also to assist and direct them in their difference against the mutined Spaniardes. Besides it is thought he shalbe general of such men as shalbe levied there.

Monsieur de Rassingham is apointed to go to Zirickze to endeavour his diligence for the pacification of the Wallons that are revolted there, who have sworne, if there be no order taken shortly for their pay, they meane to sacke the towne and contry and to forsake all.

Sancio de Avilla was sent for by the Councell of States to answer such stout shoves as he had made against them, but would not come to Bruxels, fearing the furie of the comons also his presuminge to deale without order and against the Councell: so he was willing to come halfway, where Rhoda and Monsieur de Rassingham met him with Foucker and Fransbreeke, two coronels of the Almainges taking parte with him

and the mutined Spaniardes. And thence, after long conference had, departed they toward Bruxels, and he with his to Andwerp. What is passed as yet not knowen, but this day are apointed to mete at the same place agayne to have the Councel's answer. What will ensue of theses troubles will very shortly be knowen.

On wednesday in th'afternoon, certeyn of the Guzses ships came very nere to this towne and fought with the galeis and hoyes that met them, drove them under the towne walles, toke certeyn cattell and so with the tide drew backe to their accustomed place where they lie 2 leagues from this towne.

Yt was toold me this mourninge that the Spaniardes were agreed and all should be pacyfied, but I beleve yt not. I looked for a letter from Bruxels this mourninge, yt is not com; if therebe any thinge wourth th'advetysement, I will not fayle to wryte yt by the first, and soo for this present I take my leave.

From Andwarpe, the xii<sup>th</sup> of august 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 871.)

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MMMCLXXXIV.

*M. de Champayney à Antonio de Guaras.*

(BRUXELLES, 22 AOUT 1576.)

Les soldats espagnols qui se sont mutinés à Zierickzee sont entrés en Brabant et se sont emparés de la ville d'Alost. — Don Sanche d'Avila s'est déclaré en leur faveur. — Une vive irritation s'est manifestée au sein des populations. — Une proclamation a déclaré les mutinés ennemis du roi et du pays.

Monsieur Guaras, Nous sumes tous certains que serez esmerveillé et à juste cause de nostre long silence, si que depuis le viii<sup>e</sup> de juillet n'avez eu de nos lettres, ce qu'est advenu par le travail auquel nous nous sumes trouvés depuis par la mutinerie de la pluspart des soldats espagnols, ayants esté au siège de la ville de Ziericzee : lesquels, incontinent après la prise d'icelle, sortirent des isles de Zélande, abandonnans les forts qu'ils y avoyent en garde et vindrent en Brabant à intention, comme ils déclairoient partout, d'entrer en ceste ville et se vanger du mauvais traicement qu'ils disoyent y avoir aultrefois receu; et, combien que nous leur eussions envoyé audevant premièrement le Secrétaire Baltasar Lopez, et après monseigneur le Conte de Mansfelt, et leur faiet des offres bien justes et raisonnables, si ne volurent-ils les accepter, ains vindrent jusques à deux lieues de ceste dite ville où, désespérés de ne pouvoir entrer, se voltè-

rent contre celle d'Alost en Flandres à cinq lieues d'icy, laquelle, comme il n'y avoit point de gens de guerre, ains seulement bien peu de bourgeois, ils prindrent par force au cinquième assault avec plusieurs actes d'hostilité: dont le peuple en ceste ville, qui se avoit desjà armé, comme aussy faisoit à ceste occasion le demeurant en Brabant et Flandres pour se défendre contre samblables forces et violences, s'est tellement altéré et enflammé qu'il ne a tenu que à bien peu qu'il n'y ait eu une révolte générale de tout le pays, laquelle fust indubitablement advenue si nous ne nous eussions advisé de par publication en ceste ville faire déclairer lesdicts soldats espaignols amutinés pour ennemis et rebelles de Sa Majesté et du pays, laquelle déclaration Sancho d'Avila, chastellain d'Anvers, avec ses adhérens, est allé interpréter générale contre tous soldats espaignols et exciter par cela et aultres prétexts mensoingers tous les gens de guerre de par deçà, confortant et fortifiant lesdicts amutinés par envoy d'artillerie, poudre et autres munitions de guerre contre nous et le pays, là où, au contraire, il devoit assister à chastier lesdicts amutinés; et n'est la chose encoires appaisée et hors de danger de tumulte général, combien que l'on est d'accord avecq lesdicts amutinés, ne restant que à les payer; et afin que soyez adverti à la vérité dudiet cas, vous en envoyons ung discours imprimé, et avons bien volu vous faire part de cecy, afin que sceussiez ce que [se] passe en cest endroit.

Vos lettres qu'avons receu depuis la nostre susdite du viii<sup>e</sup> de juillet, ont esté celles des 7, 15, 21 et 28 d'icelluy mois, et 4 et 11 de cestuy présent, et vous remercions bien affectueusement des choses y contenues, n'ayant rien à vous dire pour le présent, fors que toutes les vostres pour le Secrétaire Çayas ont tousjours esté adressées par nos courriers vers la Court d'Espagne et que attendons de jour à aultre nouvelles quand le seigneur don Juan d'Austria s'encheminera ceste part pour gouverneur de ces pays, selon que Sa Majesté l'a déclairé pour tel, comme ne doubtons aurez entendu <sup>1</sup>. A tant, etc.

De Bruxelles, le xxii<sup>e</sup> jour d'aoust 1576.

(*Archives du Royaume à Bruxelles, Nég. d'Angleterre, t. V, fol. 238.*)

<sup>1</sup> William Wade écrivait de Paris, le 21 septembre 1576, que don Juan s'était secrètement rendu en Espagne afin de s'entendre avec le roi sur son voyage aux Pays-Bas. Il ajoutait que l'on accusait le duc d'Arschot de conspirer avec les bourgeois de Bruxelles contre le prince d'Orange.

(*Record office, Cal., n<sup>o</sup> 921.*)

MMMCLXXXV.

*Le prince d'Orange à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(23 AOUT 1576.)

Il s'afflige d'apprendre que la reine a non seulement refusé d'approuver la convention conclue avec les Marchands Aventuriers, mais que de plus elle a prescrit des mesures d'hostilité contre les navires zélandais. — Il proteste de son zèle pour servir les intérêts d'Élisabeth et implore son appui.

Madame, Ayant conçu ferme espérance que Vostre Majesté, après avoir entendu le rapport de Monsieur de Winter et le Sr Beale, selon son accoustumée bonté et clémence, prennant esgard à l'estat et l'extrémité où nous sommes, auroit trouvé bon l'accord fait entre les Marchans Aventuriers et nous, de tant plus qu'il y avoit grande apparence que par ce moien les choses se fussent conduictes d'icy en avant de telle façon que Vostre Majesté n'eust plus esté infortunée de tant de plainctes qu'à mon indicible regret elle a receu ordinairement, nous avons avecq grand ennuy et tristesse entendu que non-seullement Vostre Majesté n'a esté contente dudit accord, mais à l'instant a commandé d'équiper quelques navires pour nous courir sus et empescher le trafyeq et négociation de ce pays de Zélande et mesmement nos navires faisans la guerre à nos ennemis, réputant tout ce qui s'est passé icy comme s'il eust esté fait en diminution de l'autorité de Vostre Majesté et du respect que debvons à icelle. Or, Madame, si je ne m'adressois à une princesse douée d'une singulière prudence et sagesse, je m'esvertuerois par long discours de remonstrer à Vostre Majesté nostre innocence; mais maintenant je me contenteray de la supplier très-humblement de mettre en considération s'il y a personne qui nous voudroit estimer de si peu d'entendement, jugement et cognoissance de vouloir, de fait advisé, entreprendre de fascher et malcontenter Vostre Majesté, laquelle nous confessons et recognoissons après Dieu estre l'un des plus grands appuys et supports que puissions avoir; et se peult asseurer icelle que nostre principal but n'est aultre que de chercher tous les moiens d'acquérir et maintenir sa faveur et bonne grâce: qui me la fait supplier très-humblement, ayant esgard à l'extrémité de nostre condition, ne se vouloir laisser irriter et altérer contre ses très-humbles et pouvres serviteurs, sur lesquels je la puis asseurer qu'elle a aultant de commandement que sur ses propres subjects. Nous confiant qu'il luy plaira avoir esgard à nostre conservation et ne nous astraintre à chose dont nostre ruine et perdition pourroit ensuivre, laquelle nous ne pourrions jamais eroire que Vostre Majesté vouldist per-

mectre à cause qu'estant la princesse de la christienneté qui par tout le monde a acquis la plus grande réputation d'estre le refuge des pouvres affligés, elle ne voudroit, comme nous estimons, diminuer la renommée de sa vertu et débonnaireté à la ruïne et oppression de ceulx qui ont tousjours eu espérance et attente d'estre soulaigés par son moien, comme encoir à présent nous faisons, prennans la hardiesse en toute humilité et révérence de luy remonstrer nostre nécessité, laquelle nous espérons qu'elle fleschira le cœur d'icelle à une bonne affection envers nostre cause pour fère cesser tous empeschemens et toutes voyes de faict et nous traicter comme ses très-humbles serviteurs.

Madame, baisant très-humblement les mains de Vostre Majesté, je prie Dieu donner à icelle, en santé, vie bonne et longue.

(Record office, Cal., n° 885.)

MMCLXXXVI.

*Le prince d'Orange au comte de Sussex.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 23 AOUT 1576.)

Même objet.

Monsieur, Depuis deux ou trois jours en çà je suis adverty que Sa Majesté ne veillant que l'accord faict pardeçà avec les Sieurs de Winter et Beale soit entretenu, a faict armer quelques navires pour nous courrir sus et empescher toute traficque à ceulx de pardeçà, mesmement que desjà on auroit pardelà prins troix de nos batteaux de guerre: chose qui m'a grandement contristé pour n'avoir jamais donné occasion quelconque à Sa Majesté d'entrer en telle indignation contre nous, ayant au contraire tousjours cherché tous moyens pour non-seulement complaire à icelle, mais aussy luy rendre toute humble obéissance, ainsy que moy et ceulx de cesdits pays avons par signes si évidens manifestement faict paroistre à Sa Majesté. Ce néantmoins, ne sçachant à quelle occasion lesdits batteaux pourroient avoir esté arrestés, ne voudrois aucunement me plaindre en cas qu'ils ayent donné occasion à ce faire par quelques mésus et forfaits, mesmes serois très-aisé qu'ils en receussent punition condigne à leurs mérites. Mais au contraire, en cas que l'occasion ne fût procédée d'eux, j'espérerois que Sa Majesté ne voudroict permectre que l'on vint ainsy directement au contraire de la promesse faicte par lesdits S<sup>r</sup> Winter et Beale, sous l'autorité et expresse charge de Sa Majesté et de vous aultres,



Messieurs du Conseil, d'autant plus que la bnignit et clmence nayfve de Sa Majest est telle qu'elle ne voudroiet donner occasion (venans nos ennemis à se prvaloir par tel moyen de nous) à nostre oppression et entire ruyne, mais plustost, ayant esgard à la justice et quit de nostre cause et bon droict, user de son accoustume faveur vers nous, comme sur ce propos j'en escrips plus amplement à Sa Majest, la suppliant trs-humblement que devant qu'adjouster foy aux rapports qui pourroyent divertir sa bonne affection en nostre endroit, il luy plaise escouter et entendre la vrit des affaires. Or, me confiant en la bonne faveur que de tous temps m'avez dmontr, j'ay bien voulu vous faire de mesme entendre tout ccy et vous prier de tenir la bonne main envers Sa Majest que son bon plaisir soit d'oster tout mescontentement qu'elle pourroit avoir conceu contre nous, et nous esclargir et impartir sa bnigne faveur et clmence, ainsy que jusques icy elle a fait. En quoy elle m'obligera avecq tous ceulx de ces pays à luy estre à perptuit trs-humbles et trs-obissans serviteurs. Et, pour vostre regard, je seray tousjours prest pour dservir le bnfice qu'en cest endroit par vostre moyen aurons receu, d'aussy prompte volont que je vous prsente icy mes trs-affectueuses recommandations en vostre bonne grce, suppliant Dieu vous donner, Monsieur, en bien parfaicte sant, bien heureuse et longue vie.

Esript à Middelbourg, ce xxiii<sup>e</sup> jour d'aoust 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n<sup>o</sup> 883.)

MMCLXXXVII.

*Le prince d'Orange au Secrtaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBURG, 23 AOUT 1576.)

Mme objet.

Monsieur de Walsingan, Depuis deux ou trois jours en çà je suis adverty que Sa Majest, ne vueillant que l'accord fait pardeçà avec les Sieurs de Winter et de Beale soit entreteu, a fait armer quelques navires pour nous courrir sus et empescher toute traficque à ceux de pardeçà, mesmement que desjà on auroit pardelà prins troix de nos batteaux de guerre : chose qui n'a grandement contrist pour n'avoir jammais donn occasion quelconque à Sa Majest d'entrer en telle indignation contre nous, ayant au contraire tousjours cherch tous moyens, pour non-seullement complaire à icelle, mais aussy luy rendre toute humble obissance, ainsy que moy et ceux de cesdits pays avons

par signes si évidents manifestement fait paroistre à Sa Majesté. Ce néantmoins, ne sachant à quelle occasion lesdits bateaux pourroyent avoir esté arrestés, ne voudroy aucunement me plaindre en cas qu'ils ayent donné occasion à ce faire par quelques mésus et forfaitcs, mesmes serois très-aisé qu'ils en receussent punition condigne à leurs mérites. Mais au contraire, en cas que l'occasion ne fust procédée d'eux, j'espéreroiy que Sa Majesté ne voudroit permectre que l'on vint ainsy directement au contraire de la promesse faicte par lesdicts S<sup>rs</sup> Winter et Beale, soubs l'autorité et expresse charge de Sa Majesté et de vous aultres, Messieurs du Conseil, d'autant plus que la bénignité et clémence nayfve de Sa Majesté est telle qu'elle ne voudroit donner occasion (venans nos ennemis à se prévaloir par tel moyen de nous) à nostre oppression et entière ruyne, mais plustost, ayant esgard à la justice et équité de nostre cause et bon droict, user de son accoustumée faveur vers nous, comme sur ce propos, j'en escrips plus amplement à Sa Majesté, la suppliant que devant qu'adjouster foy aux rapports, qui pourroyent divertir sa bonne affection en nostre endroiet, il luy plaise escouter et entendre la vérité des affaires <sup>1</sup>. Or, comme je sçay que mesdictes lettres vous viendront entre les mains, je vous prieray que, continuant le bon zèle qu'avez tousjours démontré à l'avancement de la gloire de Dieu et au bien de ces pays, vous veuillez tenir la bonne main, tant envers Sa Majesté que tous aultres que trouverez convenir, afin que le bon plaisir de Sa Majesté soit d'oster tout mescontentement qu'elle pourroit avoir conceu contre nous, et nous élargir et impartir sa bénigne faveur et clémence, ainsy que jusques icy elle a faict: en quoy elle m'obligera, avec tous les habitans de ces pays, à luy estre et demeurer à perpétuité très-humbles et très-obéissans serviteurs. Et pour vostre regard, par dessus la récompense que le Seigneur Dieu vous en fera, je seray tousjours prest pour déservir le bénéfice qu'en cest endroiet par vostre moien aurons receu, d'aussy prompte volonté que je vous présente icy mes très-affectueuses recommandations en vostre bonne grâce, suppliant Dieu vous donner, Monsieur de Walsingham, en santé, heureuse et longue vie.

Escript à Middelbourg, ce xxiii<sup>e</sup> jour d'aoust 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 884.)

<sup>1</sup> Le docteur Dale mandait le 15 juillet 1576 à lord Burleigh que, selon un bruit fort répandu, le duc Casimir avait promis un secours de quatre mille reîtres au prince d'Orange. Quant à don Juan, il se préparait, disait-on, à se rendre aux Pays-Bas avec une grande armée, et il n'attendait pour se mettre en marche que le moment où la moisson aurait été faite en Savoie. (*Rec office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 845.)

MMMCLXXXVIII.

*Philippe de Marnix au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 24 AOÛT 1576.)

Même objet. — Exposé des considérations qui doivent porter la reine d'Angleterre à ne pas abandonner le prince d'Orange. — Nouvelles de Brabant.

Monsieur, J'ay esté merueilleusement estonné de veoir le fruit de la légation de MM. Winter et Beale réussir tout au rebours de la ferme opinion qu'en avois conceue; car, voiant leur prudence et discrétion, mesmement dudict sieur Winter, accompagnée d'une affection du repos et bien publicq, le contentement qu'ils monstroient à leur parlement avoir de leur négociation et des effets d'icelle, je m'asseuroye que Sa Majesté, entendant leur rapport, auroit pour agréable ce que par lui au nom d'icelle avoit icy esté promis et convenu, mesmes voiant que Monseigneur le Prince d'Oranges y procédoit ainsy rondement et en toute sincérité.

Depuis nous avons icy esté abbruvés d'un bruit commun que Sa Majesté, non seulement désadvouoit le contract qui a icy esté fait avecq les Marchans Aventuriers, mais aussy faisoit apprester force batteaux pour rompre et empescher la négociation de Zélande, leur couper les moiens de ne faire la guerre à leurs ennemis et, en somme, nous faire la guerre, chose que j'estimoye autant esloignée de la vérité, comme je savoye Sa Majesté douée de vertu et magnanimité pour ne contrevenir aux promesses de ses ambassadeurs, faites en son nom et par sa charge. Voire encore, pour le présent, je demeure en la mesme opinion, ne me pouvant persuader autrement, quoyque presque tout le monde juge icy que Sa Majesté seroit grievement offensée contre nous. Cependant je ne puis obmectre de vous escrire ce mot pour vous donner à entendre que le dernier arrest et prinse de trois de nos batteaux a donné occasion à tout cecy. De ma part j'estime bien que il faut qu'ils aient commis quelque chose au moyen de quoy ils aient mérité d'estre chastés, mais aussy, s'il estoit ainsy comme un bruit icy, qu'ils ont esté prins sans aucune occasion, voire sous espèce d'amitié, je voudroye bien supplier de mettre la conséquence de tout cecy en considération. Je ne di pas tant pour nostre regard (combien qu'ayants esté tousjours très-humbles serviteurs de Sa Majesté, auxquels elle peut commander comme aux siens propres, nous aurions occasion d'espérer qu'elle ne voudroit procurer nostre ruyne) comme pour la réputation de Sa Majesté. Je say bien que l'on pourroit dire que nous lui en avons donné occasion par l'arrestement des batteaux anglois pour lesquels lesdicts sieurs Winter et Beale

ont icy esté envoyés; mais, quand tout sera bien considéré et pesé, encor samblera-il que, ayant Sa Majesté envoyé les susdiets pour cest effect, et nous aians traité avecq eux à leur contentement, au moins selon ce qu'en avons peu aparcevoir, il n'y a eu nulle occasion donnée du depuis, veu mesmes que par leur promesse nous nous sommes tenus comme assurés que dorénavant nos batteaux pourroient, sans aucun empeschement, passer en toute liberté, moyennant les conditions spécifiées aux articles couchés par eux-mesmes; car, quant au traité fait avec les Marchans Aventuriers, il a esté fait à leur fin et comme avec leur agréation: au moins ils n'ont fondé là dessus nulle occasion de rompre ou retarder leurdiète promesse faite au nom de Sa Majesté, et aussy, touchant le fait en soy, ce n'est pas chose nouvelle d'emprunter dans une nécessité si extrême quelque somme de deniers par les marchans, lesquels en peu de tamps recouvreront ce dommage, et mesmes reçoivent obligations et assurances à leur contentement, joint que, si nous estions princes ou que nous nous voulussions égaler à Sa Majesté, elle pourroit avoir occasion de s'en venger, mais là où nous avons nostre seul recours à sa pitié et miséricorde, nous trouvans oppressés et presque accablés par la tyrannie et cruauté des ennemis communs de tous ceux qui font la profession que fait Sa Majesté, il vient à considérer quelle gloire ou honneur ce sera à Sa Majesté de s'attacher à nous, ausquels elle peut commander comme l'on dit, à baguette, vous assurant qu'elle y trouvera toute obéissance en tout ce qui est possible de faire sans nostre ruine et calamité.

Mais, Monsieur, je vous prie de considérer que le trafficq qui se fait avecq nos ennemis, ne peut estre maintenu en son cours sans que nous serions accablés, car c'est le vray glaive dont l'ennemy nous coupe la gorge. Que si on réclame les promesses faites, je di derchief que nous ne sommes ni princes, ni monarques pour entrer en telles capitulations avec Sa Majesté, mais supplions seulement qu'elle ait esgard à nostre conservation, afin que luy puissions faire très-humble service. Elle le peut faire sans avoir préjudice, seulement par quelque convenence de sa grâce spéciale, ainsy que très-amplement a esté montré auxdiets sieurs Winter et Beale, sur quoy ils nous ont promis de faire tout devoir envers Sa Majesté, afin qu'il luy plaise le nous ottroier, et par ce moien cesseront toutes les plaintes des marchans. Mesmes on le peut faire sous le prétexte et couleur des assurances, ce qui reviendra à un indicible proffit des subjects de Sa Majesté, là où au contraire, si nous sommes ruinés, quel profit ou quel honneur en pourra-elle acquerre? Je veux bien que le royaume soit assez puissant pour se maintenir contre tous ceux qui le voudroient envahir, mais tant y a qu'ayant l'Espagnol si près, il faudra tenir plus de force et plus estroite garde: et, quant ainsy ne seroit, toutefois quel avantage sera-ce à Sa Majesté d'avoir ceste réputation que M. le Prince d'Orange, avec tous ceux qui, par une admirable providence et singulière grâce de Dieu, ont si longtans soutenu, avec si peu de forces, une guerre si furieuse, et ont si

longtams maintenu la doctrine de l'Évangile, malgré la tyrannie espagnolle, aient esté ruinés, et le règne de Christ exterminé de ces pays-icy à l'occasion de Sa Majesté, et mesme à une telle occasion qui ne pourra apporter nul avantage à icelle? Car, je vous prie, quand elle souffriroit par bénigne connivence que ses marchans, passants par la mer, payassent comme les subjects de tous autres princes, en quoy pourroit-elle estre intéressée, ou en quoy est-elle avantagée maintenant, quant, pour empescher si peu de secours qui nous en pourroit revenir, il y a une infinité d'outrages commis sur la mer, dont ensuyvent plaintes et doléances, pour ausquelles remédier il lui semble qu'il n'y a autre moyen que de faire la guerre à ses plus humbles serviteurs, si ce n'est par aventure que l'on vouldist mettre en conte que l'ennemy n'aura pas maintenant occasion de dire que Sa Majesté nous supporte ou favorise? Mais j'ay veu telle la vertu, constance et magnanimité de Sa Majesté, que cela ne luy vient point en sa pensée.

Que reste-il doncq? Sinon qu'elle ouvre les yeux de sa clémence et miséricorde, et de sa grâce nous eslargisse le moyen par lequel nous puissions nous soustenir et mettre ordre à tous désordres passés, et par là elle nous rendra tellement ses très-humbles et fidelles serviteurs que nous aurons occasion de prier Dieu pour l'accroissement de sa grandeur, en toute prospérité. Je vous prie, Monsiur, d'y vouloir tenir la bonne main, et vous y ferez une œuvre digne d'un chrestien, et par laquelle vous rendrez tous les fidelles affligés vos obligés. De ma part je le tiendray pour un singulier bénéfice, lequel je tascheray de desservir et recognoistre en tous endroits où il vous plaira me commander.

Et à tant, après m'estre humblement et bien affectueusement recommandé à vos bonnes grâces, je prieray Dieu vous donner, Monsiur, en santé vie bonne et longue.

Eserit à Middelburg, ce xxiii<sup>e</sup> d'aoust 1576.

*P. S.* Pour nouvelles, les troubles de Brabant continuent de plus en plus. Il y a quelques jours que le Duc d'Arshot s'est déclaré vouloir vivre et mourir avec les Estats, mais il semble que le peuple est entré en quelque deffiance de luy. L'on nous a longtams entretenu de la venue de don Juan d'Autriche. Depuis quelques jours en çà l'on avoit semé un bruit que pour l'effort du Tureq cela s'estoit changé. Maintenant, depuis cestes eserites, nous avons derechef les nouvelles de Brabant que pour certain il doit venir : mesmes un qui est depuis deux heures en çà venu de France, dit que l'on tient illecq pour chose faite qu'il marche desjà ou marchera de bref.

MMMCLXXXIX.

*Philippe de Marnix à Lamponius.*

(24 AOUT 1576.)

Pénible impression produite par la résolution de la reine. — On reproche aux insurgés de la Zélande d'avoir manqué à leurs promesses et de s'abandonner à la piraterie. — Justification de leurs actes. — Il est à espérer que la reine n'abandonnera point ceux qui luttent pour la même cause.

Ex quo discessit Winterius, nihil a te litterarum. Ipse item ad te nihil dedi, sed expectavi tuas. Nos, cum omnia fausta isthinc speraremus, ecce nescio quæ procella oritur, nixa, certa dicam ratione an incerto vulgi rumore, graviter indignari Regi-  
nam. Quid vero? An quod cum Mercatoribus pepigimus et amanter transegimus? Nec enim video quid factum sit deterius. Sed amabo te, Mi Lamsoni. Ecquid a nobis nostro illo tempore fieri potuit moderatius? Quos, si omnes illas navium fortunas specioso aliquo prætextu exhausissemus, facile apud justum judicem excusavisset rerum necessitas. Nec ignoras ejusmodi temporibus prona esse ejusmodi consilia. Cæteroquin, ecquid nos cum Regina potuimus agere submissius? Et jam initæ erant rationes faciendarum querelarum. Quid est igitur? Aut unde hæc recens nobis orta est tragœdia? Mercatorum avaritia haud patitur rite res constitui. Alioquin quid vestra est Regina humanius? Quid æquabilius? Quid prudentius? Sed quo est illa benignior, hoc importuniores sunt istorum querimoniam. Nec desunt sane flabella externa, quæ nos odio plusquam vatiniiano persequuntur. Sed obstabit illius prudentia singularis. Nos certe nihil egimus nisi quod ipsa nos extrema coëgit agere necessitas. Quos si perditos vult Regina, equos tandem perdet nisi quos sibi habet penitus mancipatos? Egregiam vero laudem et spolia ampla, præsertim cum tanto hoste nobis est negotium. Et tamen quid in nostri ruina indipiscetur illa lucri? Existimant illi atrocem sibi a nostris injuriam fieri propterea quod non patimur quoslibet nisi multatos cum hostibus nostris merces commutare. Omnino, si plane pereundum est nobis, putasne mulum referre hæc an illa pereamus via?

Quod si mercaturam in Anglia hostis noster exercet et apud illum vicissim Anglus, jam perimus planissime. Sin autem, perimus fortasse. Regiæ enim Majestatis indignatio interitum nobis vult comminari. Itaque omnino pereundum est. Quod si est ex illius voto, pereamus certe. Quam juste autem, ipse tu vides. Hic nihil nec Walsinghamus, nihil Sussexius, nihil Essexius, nihil Huntingtonius, nihil Knollius. Nam quid ego de Lecestrio, de Burgleio atque aliis dicam infinitis? An omnes isti taciti ac videntes ita

nos injusta calumnia patientur opprimi? Sed aiunt violasse nos fidem, nihil nos a nostra rapacitate pyratice relinquere intactum. Primum de fide, mox de pyratice. Regina certe legatos huc ad nos misit, venerunt una cum illis mercatores qui se reliquorum omnium dicerent procuratores et certe tabulis luculentis fidem facerent. Postulavimus ut omnium querelarum ac rerum ante actarum institueretur ἀμνηστία, ut in subsidium nobis mutua darentur lib. 250 millia. Assenserunt illi sponte ac libere. Conscii fuere legati, qui reliquas omnes naves dimitti postularunt : dimissæ sunt, bona fide. Ubi est hic fides violata? Sed aiunt infinita se a naviculariis et classariis conjecta devoravisse convicia. Itane ex sua dignitate esse autumat Regina naviculariorum os coercere? Et tamen si autumat, jubeat de illis sumi supplicium. Neque sibi addictissimos quosvis eodem rationis involvat supplicio. Graviter profecto dolemus haud posse nos ejusmodi coercere imperio, illius fecit insolentiam quale vel ratio vel æquitas fortasse decideret. Voluntas nos haud deficit, sed deficiunt vires. Quas si etiam amplius labefactabit Regina, cequid nobis erit reliquum nisi ut quemque pro sua libidine grassari patiamur? Et ipsi complicatis brachiis extremum opperiamur interitum? Quod quidem si cedat male, utique haud pejus cesserit quam quod postulatur a nobis! Sin autem, vide quid hae ratione profectus consecuti fuerint, qui hæc suggerunt consilia? Tune, igitur, dicet aliquis tantam insolentiam putas ab hac principe debere impune ferri? (Jam enim venio ad caput alterum de pyratice). Ego vero minime. Sed sunt rationes infinitæ quibus his malis possit remedium adhiberi.

Illa tantum si volet connivere, nos facile ita cum mercatoribus transigemus ut et nos salvi esse possimus et illi beati, tantum patiatur transigere. Perire autem ut nos jubeat qui externa ac tyrannica vi propemodum periimus. Eos vero qui hanc tyrannidem exercent, quoque omnium sunt authores malorum, quæ non modo in naves grassantur, sed quosvis ejus subditos ad triremes affligunt; imo etiam furcis affligunt, vix verbo attingere, et vero etiam confœderationem cum illis vel moliri vel certe comminari, ut Regina in animum induxerit omnino nos persuaderi, nunquam patiemur. Perdiu nobis de ejus sapientia, justitia, benignitate, fide ac religione constabit. In nautas nostros quod insolenter quicquam et injuste egerint ut graviter animadvertat, nobis etiam quodvis non aliter ac suis ipsa populis præseribat, jubeat, imperet; non modo patiemur, sed in beneficii ponemus loco. Tantum rogamus, et quidem, quanta maxima animi demissione supplices obsecrare possumus, obsecramus ne Christi Domini causam deserat, neque in querulorum quorumpiam mercatoreulorum qui solis numulis inhiant gratiam in dicta causa, damnet eos qui nihil optant, nihilque cupiunt magis quam ut hæc Regina diu regnet feliciter et quicumque vel reges illam vel reginæ consequentur, ejus vestigiis instant. Illius enim memoriam fore apud omnem posteritatem beatam ac felicem, quamdiu illa Dei populum suo favore proteget, tamdiu autem quoad sibi constabit, faciet, nihil dubitant.

Hic tu si quid poteris, quæso, effice. Cum isthic essemus, gratitudinis ergo munusculum tibi curaveramus porrigi id jam primum datum esse tam sero, grave nobis fuit. Datum tamen omnino fuisse, jucundum est. Id si tibi gratum fuit, erit nobis gratissime. Vale et me, ut facis, ama, tuique amantissimum esse tibi persuade.

(Record office, Cal., n° 886.)

MMMCXC.

*Villiers à Walsingham.*

(FLESSINGUE, 30 AOUT 1576.)

Conférences avec le prince d'Orange qui proteste de son désir d'entretenir des relations d'amitié avec Élisabeth. — Il y aurait lieu de relâcher les navires et les marins qui ont été arrêtés en Angleterre.

Sir, I wrote you a worde yesterday by chance by the way of Callais, but I was very short, both because I had no time to write, and also because . . . . . had not as then come to the speache of the Prince but once. This day I had audience againe, and therefore I thoght good to advertise yow of that that hathe passed, and what I am in hope off to be concluded hereafter or must be sene unto as sone as may be. As touchinge Her Majestie's honour, His Excellencie shewed me the copie of a lettre which he wrote not longe since, whereby he trusteth Her Majestie may understand and perceive that he is not so unadvised as to attempt any thinge against Her Majestie's honour or the honour of the realme of England, and how, oft soever and whensoever it shalbe thoght requisite, and Your Honours shall so thinke it good, he wil give Her Majestie to understande, as wel by letters as otherwyse, what Her Majestie may trust and loke for at his handes.

But he was greatly amased when he understode assuredly that Her Majestie toke these matters so muche to heart that she resolved with her self to be revenged of him by way of armes, consideringe in what termes he standeth, how longe he hathe bin in this great distresse, the expenses that he hath ben at, the mightienes of his enemies and their forces, what enterprises thei have embraced and do embrace not onely in this contrie, but also in other places, which Her Majestie can not be ignorant off, consideringe the good advertisementes she hath from all partes, so that, though necessitie might have enforced him to forget some part of his deutie towards Her Majestie, yet his state



and condition was rather to be pitied and tendred with compassion, then prosecuted with hatred, especially on a christian prince's part.

Though he was advertised before of the takinge of certaine of his shippes, yet he buylded himself so finely uppon the contract that passed betwext His Excellencie and Sir William Wynthter that he made accompt, accordinge to the teneur of the contract, that happely his shippes had committed some act against Her Majestie's subjectes, which might be a just and sufficient cause of their said stay. And in consideration the-reof, when as his men of warre, at the first report of these newes, were very instant with him to be licenced to goe to sea, he alwayes cast them off with delayes, until he were more fully advertised of the truth of the matter and of Her Majestie's pleasure, whose most humble servant he greatly desireth to continue.

Beinge given to understande afterwarde that his shippes of warre were taken dayly by way of hostilitie, and that his men were murdered, and that the shippes of Holland and Zeland were arrested in Englande, yet, for all that, he would not arrest one englishe shippe, but suffred them to have free acces both to and from all his portes, as I have sene it, and I am sure it is true.

As for his ships of warre, it is not yet past three dayes since he licenced them to go to the seas, but yet notwithstandinge with this charge and commandement that thei shold not deale with englishe shippes otherwyse then lovingly and frendly, yea, and if in case Her Majestie's ships of warre shold meete with them, thei shold use all such kinde of duetic to them, as the lesse oght to the greater. Onely he permitted them to defend them selves, if in case thei happened to be assailed.

As for the marchantes which are arrested at Middelbourge, whereas uppon certaine newes that the letters of change were not accepted in Englande, certaine private marchantes had caused them to be cast into prison for assurance of their dettes, which mounted to about five and twentie thousand florins, this notwithstandinge, His Excellencie dealt with the parties yesterday to set them at libertie, how be it he coold do no good in it, because thei shewed him that thei were utterly undone by becominge suerties and therefore thei desired justice. As for his part, if he were able, he wold rather pay the dett then by this meanes incurre Her Majestie's displeasure. Howbeit, he hath assured me that, as sone as he cometh to Middelbourg, which wilbe to day or to morrowe at the furthest, he wil cause them to be set at libertie, and therein he wil not faile.

I have shewed His Excellencie some meanes of accord, accordingly as I thought good and in myne owne name. He willed me to putt them doune in writinge that he might propose them in Conseil, and thei might be there debated uppon: which I did, and I trust thei wil beginne this day to grow to some resolution.

But, to be short, I perceived by him that unlesse he have money, the state of his

affaires standeth upon a most dangerous periode; for, besides his common cause and busines, he made such accompt of the somme of money that was promised, that he had made assignation of payement of his mariners, upon this somme, whereof if he be frustrate, his forces by sea wil by that meanes quaille, which is, in many sight, his greatest hope. He humbly desireth Her Majestie to consider that it is but a bare lone, and that the whole communitie of Hollande and Zelande are bounde for it and wil pay it, as reason is.

But because this point dependeth upon the resolution that the States wil take in this behalfe, I wil not say further what talke His Excellencie had with me, touchinge this article. Onely I must tel yow thus muche that His Excellencie protested to me that his extremitie is suche that he must be succoured, ether that way or by some other, or els he is utterly undone.

In the meane season, he willed me to write unto Your Honour and to pray yow that, the meane while this final resolution is in takinge, yow wold be a meanes to Her Majestie that the poore mariners of Hollande and Zelande, which are arrested in sondrie portes of Englande, may be enlarged, seinge that for his part he hath not arrested any or yet, mindeth to doe.

As for the ships of warre, which were arrested in Corwale, and the other since taken that it wold please Her Majestie, accordinge to the contract passed betwene His Excellencie and Sir William Wynter (wherby the said Sir William Wynter, accordinge to his autoritie given him from Her Majestie, promised the foure ships shold be delivered and that none of His Excellencie's ships shold be thence forth arrested in Englande) to set the said ships at libertie, and moreover that it wold please Her Majestie to give commandement to her ships of warre that are abroad, to cease from all actes of hostilitie, as, for his part, he hath taken like order with his.

But, for that he assured himself upon Sir William Wynter and Mr Beale's worde and thereupon warranted them that were taken, whose parrents and friendes and wyfes and children do now exclaime against His Excellencie for the takinge of their friendes and for that he hath since also commanded his men to do no hurt to any of Her Majestie's subjectes unlesse thei be set upon, yea and hath broken of divers enterprises which the inhabitantes of this towne intended, these thinges considered, he is afraide that, whylst on the one part he contented himself to endure all extremitie rather then to incurre Her Majestie's displeasure, on the other, if Her Majestie prosecute him with force of armes, and thei of this towne go on by that meanes to susteine more losse, there wil folowe a great discontentement, which is like to turne to his great dishonour and utter ruine, being prosecuted with Her Majestie's forces on the one side, and not provided for the assurance of his people on the other side, accordinge, as his desire is both to defende him selfe and to be revenged, such is the nature of a number

of them, more bent to mischief then enclined to peace. And therefore he willed me to pray yow to advertise Her Majestie of these thinges in the meane while this matter may be ended by way of frendship and courteous dealinge, and humbly to beseeche Her Majestie to give charge, as sone as she can, to her men of warre that they molest not the Zelanders. Promisinge to order the matter in such sort and that with all spede possible that he trusteth Her Majestie shal have just occasion to content her self, as he hath alreedy begon to do in some part.

As for my self, if it might be lawful for me to tell yow myne advise, I wold wishe yow shold enlarge those poore men which are arrested in your portes and havens, which cat out themselves with expenses, and are such that, if you had ten thousand of them, no man could tell how to get a farthinge by them, more that the foure ships of warre might be a better readines then I could understande thei were at my departure, and that thei may be delivered to them, at such time as thei shal demand them, that this be no impediment to the principl matter in hande. As for those miserable prisoners, the longe kepinge of them can not be but increase of expense, and, if thei be sent home, great broiles wilbe appeaced here, and it wilbe good to give warninge from port to port to your ships of warre that thei attempt nothinge against them. Surely I see divers particularities, beside general inconveniencs, which any man may easely perceive. one like to breede great occasions of further bitternes. Therefore I beseech Your Honour without delay to give me a spedy answer to the ende that, whyle the rest is a ripeninge, there may be some good beginninge made of a good accorde, which may be for the honour and profit of Her Majestie and the crowne of Englande, and in like sort, that His Excellencie and this poore contrie that hath so longe a time susteined so weightie a burden, may be somewhat eased and lightened. You shal do wel, me semeth, to cast your eyes uppon the affayres of these Lowe-Contries, the ende whereof may be farre otherwyse then many thinke. And thus, etc.

From Flushing, 50 august 1576.

Since the writinge of my letters, I have had speache with His Excellencie againe and perceive more and more what paine he is in; for, uppon the contract which he made with Sir William Wynter and M<sup>r</sup> Beale, he assured uppon his faith and worde of a prince all the capitaines of Her Majestie's good will, which caused the men of warre of this contrie to misdoute in no whit the englishe ships, yea, and clear against divers of the capitaines willes, he restrained them from entreprisinge any thinge against any of Her Majestie's subjectes, and thereof assured the Lordes and Gouverners of this contrie: whereuppon he hath greatly engaged His Honour, yea, and since my cominge I have assured him, for oght that I could perceive at my beinge in Englande, that thei are chefest in Englande, desire nothinge more then that all thinges may be peaceably ended and made up; and therefore I have done what I could that the beginninge might

be gracious and friendly. I perceive His Excellencie hath differed divers matters, uppon the hope that I have put him in, that, ere it be longe, he shold understande of Her Majestie's resolution, whereof he hath as yet received no nuse, but onely by report of certaine mariners and soldiers; and therefore I besech Your Honour to give me answere, so sone as yow can, to this end which His Excellencie loketh for, to wit: that Her Majestie wilbe content not to prosecute him with armes, but give commandement to her ships that thei use no kinde of force.

(Record office, Cal., n° 892.)

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MMMCXCI.

*Villiers à Walsingham.*

(FLESSINGUE, 30 AOUT 1576.)

Recommandation en faveur du messenger à qui ses lettres ont été confiées.

Monseigneur, Depuis mes lettres escrites, j'ai trouvé ce présent porteur, qui m'a faict ce plaisir de porter mes lettres, et, d'aautant que je sçai qu'il estoit l'un des nommés au billet comme aussi il le sçavoit assez, il faisoit quelque difficulté de faire le voiage, sinon que je l'ai asseuré que pour cella il n'en tumberoit en inconvéniat, de quoy je m'attens aussi sur vous, vous suppliant de le dépescher le plus tost que faire se pourra; ce pendant j'advancerai au reste en la plus grande diligence.

Je prie Dieu, Monseigneur, de vous bénir.

A Flesinghe, ce 50 aoust 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 893.)

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MMMCXCII.

*Villiers à Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBORG, 1<sup>er</sup> SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Deux marchands anglais ont été mis en liberté. — Accord en Flandre. — Péril du prince d'Orange.

Monseigneur, Aiant trouvé ceste commodité, je n'ai voulu de rechef faillir à vous escrire pour vous advertir que, suivant la promesse que Son Excellence m'en avoit

faicte il i a deux jours à Flesinghe, vos deux marchants ont esté mis en liberté et sont maintenant sur leur garde. Le plus viel est fort malade, mais il me semble qu'il i a plus de mélancolie que d'autre chose. Ce gentilhomme vous dira comment il n'i a en ce païs aucun Anglois arrêté, ni aucun navire. Cependant, à ce que je puis entendre, l'accord se fera entre ceux de Flandres, qui met le Prince en très-grand danger, tellement que, Sa Majesté continuant en apparence, tout ira mal de *los escudos*.

Je ne m'atten point encores avoir auleune response jusques à lundi 5<sup>e</sup> de ce mois, car hyer nous revinsmes de Flesinghe, demain il est dimanche, auquel jour on ne faict rien au Conseil.

J'espère que Monsieur de Bertelai vous portera quelque nouvelle de leur advis, qui partira en peu de jours.

Je prie Dieu, Monseigneur, qu'il vous aist en sa garde.

A Midelbourg, le premier septembre 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 896.)

### MMMCXCH.

#### *Villiers à Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 4 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Le prince d'Orange persiste dans ses bonnes intentions vis-à-vis de l'Angleterre; mais à la longue il pourrait être forcé à recourir à d'autres mesures. — Il serait utile qu'il envoyât quelqu'un en Angleterre pour traiter avec la reine. — Motifs pour conserver la navigation sur l'Escaut. — Les troupes espagnoles ont évacué la Hollande.

Monseigneur, Je vous ai escrit par deux lettres précédentes que jusques à présent Monseigneur le Prince n'a retenu auleun des subjects de Sa Majesté, ni navire, qu'il n'a encores donné charge à auleun de ses navires de faire la guerre, ains leur a commandé de faire honneur aux navires d'Angleterre. Monsieur de Bartelai, lequel, comme j'espère, vous rendra ces lettres, vous en pourra informer d'avantage. Cependant Son Excellence est en grand' perplexité comment elle a à se gouverner à l'advenir, voiant d'une part que de jour en jour ses navires sont pris et arrestés, ce néantmoins qu'il n'a peu encores se persuader que Sa Majesté vouldist entrer en guerre avecq ce païs, tant pour n'en avoir veu encores aulcune déclaration de la part de Sa Majesté, que parce qu'il ne peult croire que Sa Majesté vouldist faire un si grand déplaisir à cellui qui toute sa vie a désiré de lui faire très-humble service: telle est la cause qu'il n'est encores déli-

béré de se défendre, ains d'endurer. De ma part, encores que je n'aie entendu qu'il aist auleun désir d'user de voie de faict, tant i a que je ne puis pas croire, veu le peuple qu'il a à gouverner, qu'à la longue il ne fust vaincu : ce qui m'a faict entrer à lui donner ce conseil d'envoier quelc'un en Angleterre, espérant par ce moien que tous acts d'hostilité cesseroient et que ce seroit aussi un bon commencement pour acheminer les affaires en quelque bon train. Mais sur cella il m'a faict response qu'il ne sçait quelle résolution prendre d'envoier homme en Angleterre, qui pourroit estre arresté comme les aultres qui i sont, si premièrement il n'estoit bien asseuré que Sa Majesté trouva bon et agréable que quelc'un fust envoié de la part de Son Excellence. Je n'ai laissé à entrer particulièrement en conférence avecq Son Excellence des moiens pour l'advenir, attendant que les Estats se résolvent sur ce que je leur ai présenté au nom de nos Églises; mais, après plusieurs propos et longs, je veoi finalement que son désir est tousjours d'avoir quelque argent à cause de la nécessité extrême de laquelle il est pressé. J'ai pris occasion de traiter avecq les marchants, au moins avecq le sieur Godard, car l'autre est fort malade; mais son advis semble mieux d'accorder à paier quelque somme par forme d'assurance, que non pas de rompre le trafficq; car le trafficq rompu ne peult amener auleun proffict à Son Excellence, et l'ouverture de passage tant pour les Marchants Adventuriers que les Stapiers peult lui apporter des commodités desquelles il a affaire. En second lieu, quelque ordre qu'on puisse mettre, on ne pourra empescher que la marchandise d'Angleterre ne soit menée au Pays-Bas et ramenée par Callais, Dieppe et Rouan, qui fera tousjours enchérir la marchandise beaucoup plus que si on la passe par la Schelde, et le proffict en demeurera entre les mains des voicturiers françois et flamengs pour les voietures, ainsi sera perte sans proffict, sinon aux ennemis des uns et des aultres. Il semble aussi au sieur Godard, comme il faict à moi, que le trafficq estant entièrement rompu, il n'i auroit moien d'entreprendre par les Anglois la conduite des marchandises des Espaignols : ce qui se pourroit faire, si on entroit en quelque accord dont pourroit revenir grand proffict à l'Angleterre. Il me semble que Son Excellence entendroit plus tost à ce moien qu'à l'autre, combien que les Estats de Zéelande semble mieux aimer l'autre, comme je soubçonne, aimant mieux tenir grand nombre de navires en mer que peu. De mon conseil il me semble, sauf meilleur advis, qu'il seroit expédient de donner un passeport à quelc'un qui seroit envoié par delà, auquel Son Excellence et Messieurs des Estats pourroient commettre toute charge, comme il semble qu'ils i sont auleunement disposés, ce pendant qu'il pleust à Sa Majesté (puisque Son Excellence n'est en délibération de s'armer contre elle) de faire cesser les voies de faict; en troisième lieu de disposer de bonne heure les marchants tant Adventuriers que Stapiers à quelque bonne composition, telle que Messieurs du Conseil adviseroient pour le plus grand bien d'Angleterre et de Hollande et Zéelande, car ce prévoi que Son Excellence n'est en aultre délibération que de remettre finalement le tout sous le bon

plaisir et jugement de Sa Majesté et de Messieurs du Conseil. Je pense que Son Excellence fera aussi entendre bien particulièrement à Monsieur Bertelai son intention, par lequel vous pourrez estre mieux informés de toute l'affaire. Nous n'avons pas encores assurance que les Espagnols aient appointé, tant i a que l'armée qui estoit en Hollande est entièrement retirée, et les forts que les ennemis de ce pais avoient faicts autour de Worden, ont esté entièrement abandonnés, et puis démolis.

Je prie Dieu, Monseigneur, qu'il veuille préserver Sa Majesté, Messieurs du Conseil et tout le roialme en paix.

A Midelbourg, ce 4 septembre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 897.)

MMMCXCIV.

*Le prince d'Orange à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 5 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Il se recommande à la bienveillance de la reine d'Angleterre.

Madame, Allant ce gentilhomme présent porteur par delà, n'ay voulu faillir de me ramentevoir très-humblement à la bonne grâce de vostre Majesté, mesme d'autant plus que j'ay esté advrty que aucuns de mes malvueillans auroyent semé des bruiets et faict des rapports, comme si nous avions icy arresté ou maltraicté les subjects de Vostre Majesté, chose que se trouvera entièrement éloignée de la vérité. Et pour tant j'ay bien voulu pryer ledit présent porteur d'informer Vostre Majesté de la vérité, suppliant icelle très-humblement le vouloir benignement ouyr, et, ayant cogneu nostre innocence nous maintenir en ses bonnes grâces et faveurs accoustumées, sans adjoüster foy aux rapports controuvés de nos malvueillans, qui ne tascient à autre chose qu'à destourner de nous la benigne affection qu'il a pleu à Vostredicte Majesté nous porter par cy-devant, afin de par tous moyens possibles procurer nostre ruïne, de laquelle comme je suis tousjours assuré Vostre Majesté n'estre aucunement désireuse, je la supplieray très-humblement de croire que nous n'avons rien tant à cueur que, avec toute submission et obéissance, luy faire très-humble service. Et pour ce que ledit porteur est suffisamment informé, tant de ce poinet susdict comme de toutes autres choses que se sont icy passées, je n'ennuycray Vostre Majesté de longue lettre, mais, luy baisant très-humblement les mains, prieray Dieu vous donner, Madame, en par-

faicte santé, vye très-heureuse et longue, avec accomplissement de ses bons et saints désirs.

A Middelbourg, ce v<sup>e</sup> de septembre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 900.)

MMMCXCV.

*Le prince d'Orange aux lords du Conseil prive.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 5 SEPTEMBRE 1576 )

Même objet.

Messieurs, Allant ce gentilhomme présent porteur en Angleterre, je l'ay pryé de s'adresser à Sa Majesté de ma part pour luy baiser très-humblement les mains et luy remonstrer aucuns poinctz que je luy ay donnés par mémoire, lesquels je l'ay pareillement pryé de vous communiquer, vous pryant très-affectueusement le vouloir ouyr bénignement et nous estre favorables envers Sa Majesté, afin que, toutes choses estants remises en bonne et parfaicte union, nous ayons par deçà meilleur moyen de monstrier à Sa Majesté par les effects que nous luy sommes très-humbles et très-obéissants serviteurs. Aussi de vostre part, Messieurs, vous vous pouvez assurer que, partout où je seray, vous aurez en moy un amy qui sera tousjours prest à vous faire service, d'aussi bon cueur, comme, après m'estre très-affectueusement recommandé à vos bonnes grâces, je pryé Dieu, Messieurs, vous avoir et tenir en sa saincte et digne garde.

A Middelbourg, ce v<sup>e</sup> de septembre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n<sup>o</sup> 901.)

MMMCXCVI.

*Villiers au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 5 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Arrangement à conclure avec les Marchands Aventuriers.

Traittant ceste après-disner avecq les Marchants, il m'a semblé pouvoir recueillir de leurs propos que le différent se pourroit composer en ceste sorte que les Marchants



Adventuriers paieront la moitié de la somme, à sçavoir présentement soixante deux mil cinq cents florins, rabattant trente six mil qui sont desjà desboursés, en demi an, 4,000 florins au sieur Morgant, 4,000 à Monsieur Pellan, 2,000 à Monsieur Bertelai, à Maistre Hawwis 32,000 florins, le reste en argent comptant, que ladicte somme seroit remboursée par les Marchants Adventuriers, rabattant tousjours le tiers de ce qui sera accordé pour les assurances du passage, jusques à fin de paiement. Quant à moi, il me semble qu'il est nécessaire d'entrer en quelque modification tant pour le bien des uns que des autres; car, tant plus je voi avant, tant plus je veoi que les affaires de deçà requièrent d'estre secourues, sur peine de ruine manifeste. Je pense aussi que Son Excellence fera tout ce qu'on voudra, moiennant qu'il se puisse défendre de son ennemi.

Eserit à Midelbourg, ce 5<sup>e</sup> septembre 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 902.)

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MMMCXCVII.

*Walsingham à Marnix.*

(6 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Il espère que les assurances données par Marnix calmeront la reine.

Monsieur, J'ay receu vos lettres qui m'ont donné très-grand contentement comme aussi à Messieurs du Conseil auxquels je les ay communiquées, veu la modestie et bonne volonté que monstrez en ces aigreurs et différens, de les avoir assoupis et mis en tel ordre que la mémoire de tout ce qui est passé, peusse estre ensevelie comme chose jamais avenue. Et vous pouvez bien assurer, moyennant que vous plaira y tenir la main et continuer en la mesme volonté que monstrez en vos lettres, que le tout réuseyra bien, encores qu'il reste quelque peu d'offence qui ne pourra estre si tost esteincte, bien considéré ce qui se fait journallement par les vostres; et toutesfois se mettra bas, tant est Sa Majesté pitoyable, moyennant qu'on en oste la cause. Et le plus tost que cela se face, le mieux sera-il pour l'avancement d'un bon accord. De tout ce qui est arresté icy et qu'on a à espérer et comment on a aussi à se gouverner, j'en ay escript plus amplement à Monsieur de Villiers, qui vous communiquera le tout plus amplement, dont me remettant sur sa suffisance et le contentement qu'en recevrez par luy, je fairay fin de cestes-cy, priant Dieu, etc.

(Record office, Cal., n° 908.)

MMMCXCVIII.

*Walsingham au Ministre Villiers.*

(WINDSOR, 6 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Il espère que la reine, tenant compte des bonnes intentions du prince d'Orange et des États de Zélande, s'apaisera ; mais il importe qu'on lui donne pleine satisfaction.

Monsieur, Je receus vos lettres le quatriesme de ce présent, et les communiquay à Messseigneurs, pour response auxquelles recevrez en brief ce peu de mots selon le contenu d'icelles, qui, si je ne m'abuse, gist en la bonne volonté et affection que Monseigneur le Prince a pour rendre Sa Majesté contente, comme aussi en la grande peine dont Son Excellence est présentement travaillée, estant ainsi pressé de costé et d'aultre, oultre sa très-urgente nécessité, chose bien fort dommageable aux affaires de la guerre, et, ès points que vous vous persuadez estre bien fort convenables à estre accordés le plus tost que faire se pourra pour donner bon commencement à l'acheminement d'un bon et heureux accord, de sa volonté et très-bonne affection en l'endroit de Sa Majesté pour la rendre satisfaicte, tant en ce que touche son honneur comme le bien et proufit de ses subjets, comme je me suis pour ma part tousjours bien persuadé. Aussi en a Son Excellence rendu bon témoignage par ses dernières lettres, tant à Sa Majesté que à quelques ungs de Messeigneurs, qui ont esté si bien receues que j'ose dire qu'elles ont non pas petitement amoindri l'aigreur qu'on avoit auparavant conceu. Et n'eust esté que les déportements de ceux de Flussinge qui se commettent encores journellement, comme ils n'ont jamais cessé de les commettre depuis le contract faict et passé, sont plus que trop insupportables, l'on eust acheminé les présents affaires à meilleure fin que je n'ose pour assuré promettre. Si est-ce que ne cesserai, tant que me sera possible, de faire croistre la bonne opinion, qui n'estoit totalement esteincte au cœur de Sa Majesé envers Son Excellence et commençoit à germiner si vivement qu'on en attendoit de fort bons fruiets. Quant est de la peine où se trouve Son Excellence, tant au regard de la nécessité que pour le travail qu'il a pour se faire ranger à raison ceux qui luy veulent sembler faire service, et ce pendant ne se laissent gouverner, chose en tous temps de très-mauvaise conséquence, à la mienne volonté, que les ungs considérassent un peu mieux la nécessité de leur obéissance, et les aultres le devoir du temps présent, et tous deux ce qu'appertient à leur paix. Mais je voy l'aigreur des nostres tel envers Son Excellence et les siens, qu'à grande peine accorderont-ils tant peu que ce soit pour le passage, ce que je crains, encores que ne cesseray y travailler, mesmes pour leur proufit,

qui se laissent volontiers aller tomber en des grands inconvénients, non plus ne moins que les povres aveugles, pour ung peu de chose qui pour le présent leur semble profitable. Reste le troisieme, touchant les points qui vous semblent nécessaires d'estre accordés pour mieux et plus promptement conduire les choses au bout qu'on prétend, lequel il a pleu à Sa Majesté et Messeigneurs du Conseil librement et franchement accorder, ce que vous trouvez raisonnable, touchant lequel voicy le tout que j'ay secu, et ce à grande peine, tiré d'eux, dont j'espère que Son Excellence et les Estats se contenteront pour ung commencement : c'est qu'il leur a pleu et plaist que les quatre navires premiers arrestés seront rendus, selon que porte le contract, en si bon point en tout et par tout, comme ils estoient au temps de leur arrest ; après, que les mariniers et ceux qui servoient ès navires prises après, seront eslargis et renvoyés en Zélande, exceptés dix ou douze des principaulx et plus apparants, lesquels, pour aucunement satisfaire à ses subjects, Sa Majesté veult encores détenir jusques à ce quelle aura plus amplement entendu l'offre de Son Excellence, lequel réuseissant à son soubhait, peut estre que sa grâce s'égalera en leur endroict, comme elle s'est desjà monstrée auxdicts relachés. Pour le troisieme, que tous navires de marchants appartenants à ceux d'Hollande et Zélande, qui sont à présent soubz arrest, seront dès maintenant relaschés, comme aussi on travaillera pour le relaschement des marchants mesmes depuis naguères arrestés, comme sçavez et espère-on, non pas sans fruict, et à leur soubhait. Pour le quatrieme, Sa Majesté est contente (espérant que le tout sera remis en bon ordre) donner et expédier mandement exprès que ses navires qui sont à présent sur mer, cesseront d'empescher ou molester ceux de Flussinge, pour l'espace de vingt jours, exceptés ceux qui seront trouvés d'avoir oultragé les subjects de Sa Majesté depuis le contract ou qui en présence de sesdicts navires invahiront et assailleront quelque navire estranger se venant directement rendre ès ports de Sa Majesté. Pour tout ce que dessus, l'on a desjà donné ordre à le faire exécuter en si bonne et prompte diligence que faire se peult, comme aussi l'on eust faict le mesme au regard des navires arrestés depuis le contract, n'eust esté pour les oultrages que ceux de Flussinge font et commettent journellement sur les subjects de Sa Majesté, comme mesmes d'hier en sont arrivés nouvelles, tant de Portsmouth que de l'isle de Wight<sup>1</sup>, chose qui a donné bien grand

<sup>1</sup> Un agent de Walsingham lui écrivait le 17 septembre 1576 :

Mr Holstocke (before his departure) receavid letters of direction toching the Flushingers' submission for their offences towards Her Majestie, th'effecte whereof was that he shold not deale with any of them, but suffre them to passe quiettlye : sythens which tyme I have ben advertised by sondrie merchautes comynge from the weste partes of certain men of warre that liethe of and on betwixte Portlande and the Wighte, that daily comytteth robbcries and longe hathe done. For the which I wold gladly know Your Honors pleasure toching the staienge of them, yf they come homewarde throwghe the narrowe seas. (*Domestic papers*, vol. 109, n° 7.)

empêchement à ce qu'on eust peu espérer de Sa [Majesté]<sup>1</sup>. Néanmoins, tout aussi tost que Sa Majesté aura entendu de par ledict seigneur Prince quelle assurance ses subjects auront de n'estre doresnavant molestés sur mer par les susdicts de Flussinge, j'espère que Sa Majesté fera en sorte que Son Excellence et les Estats de pardelà se trouveront contents. Voicy le tout que j'ay secu arracher quasi et de grand travail cuiller d'ung cœur si non sans cause très-justement offensé, entendant toutefois d'y continuer mon labeur, nonobstant le peu d'espérance que je voye, moyennant que les debvoirs de delà seront tels que Sa Majesté restera satisfaicte, comme la raison veult, et ses subjects bien suffisamment prouvez de n'estre inquiétés et molestés en leur traficque, comme ils ont esté par le passé et sont encores à leur grand tort et mon regret. Et ne doubtant point que vous y travaillerez le mieux que pourrez, je supplie le bon Dieu, après avoir salué vos bonnes grâces de mes très-affectueuses recommandations, vous donner, Monsieur, en santé, heureuse et longue vie.

Escript à Windesor, ce 6<sup>e</sup> septembre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 906.)

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MMMCXCIX.

*Villiers au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(FLESSINGUE, 6 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Un courrier envoyé par les États de Brabant a annoncé au prince d'Orange que vingt-trois membres du Conseil d'État avaient été arrêtés à Bruxelles. — Les États de Flandre veulent négocier avec les États de Zélande.

Monseigneur, A mon arrivée à Flesinghe, j'ai trouvé un courrier venant de la part des Estats de Brabant pour advertir Monseigneur le Prince que vingt-trois Conseillers d'Etat sont faicts prisonniers à Bruxelles, et demander conseil et secours. Hyer un aultre au soir estoit arrivé de la part de ceuls de Flandres, qui demandoient un pour-parlé entre les Estats de ce païs et de Flandres. J'estoi venu accompagner Monsieur Berteli, lequel je n'avoï délibéré de laisser jusques à son embarquement; mais je retourne présentement à Midelbourg pour cest affaire, duquel dès hyer nous avons commancé à traiter.

Je prie Dieu, Monseigneur, de vous conserver.

A Flesinghe, ce 6 septembre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 907.)

<sup>1</sup> On avait écrit d'abord : « à ce que Sa Majesté avoit autrement délibéré de faire. »

MMMCC.

*Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(VERS LE 9 SEPTEMBRE 1376.)

Troubles à Bruxelles. — Arrestation des principaux membres du Conseil d'État et du Conseil privé. — Les États de Brabant forment une armée que commandera M. de Hèze. — Le duc d'Archoot et le comte de Lalaing ont embrassé leur parti. — Les Espagnols, sur l'ordre de don Sanche d'Avila, occupent un camp entre Malines et Lierre. — On ignore ce que feront les troupes wallonnes. — On attribue ce mouvement à des révélations qu'aurait faites M. de Rasseghem. — Le duc palatin Casimir entrera, dit-on, aux Pays-Bas pour soutenir la cause des États.

On monday laste, certayn monye was sent from hince too Aelst for the payment of the solgiars which were mutyned, and after shoulde furder order have byn takyn for the poyntes by them demaunded, if that questyon had not otherwayes byn taken up by the Estates of the country, who entreprysed a niew matter; for, the tewsdaye after, in the fornoene, as the Councell of Estates were assembled in the Courte, Monsieur de Hees with his lieutenant Monsieur de Glymes, accompaigned with their garryson of Wallons which laye in Bruxels, cam into the Court and, entringe into the Councell chamber, apprehended them all, whose names are hereafter specyfyed <sup>1</sup>, Monsieur de Havré beinge there asked wether they would have him allsoo, but they answered to have no suche charge, but that he should goo home to his lodginge, which he did <sup>2</sup>.

Barlamont inqyrynge for what cause or by whose ordre they did apprehende him, was sayd that the States of the countrye had willed him soo too doo, and that they knew

<sup>1</sup> A cet avis se trouve jointe la note suivante :

*Councell of States :*

President Viglius in his howse; Barlamont; Mansfelt; Sasbout; Assonville; Berty, Scarenberg, secretaries, in the Bread-howse.

*Privye Councell :*

Fonck; Poishott, the advocaet fyscall; D. Del Rio; Praets, the secretary;  
The Amman and Bourrowmaster of Bruxels.

The Towne Councell of Bruxels was altered on thorsdaye last.

<sup>2</sup> Le mouvement qui avait éclaté à Bruxelles produisit la plus profonde sensation en Angleterre. Le 12 septembre, Walsingham écrivait à Burleigh :

My verry good Lord, After I had made Her Majesty acquaynted with the contents of the inclosed sent owt of Flaunders, she commaundedme to sende the same unto Your Lordship. What to judge of

wherefore. Thince they were led to the Markett-place and sett in the Bread-howse, separated asonder, and is the same howse where the Countyes of Horne and Egmont were prysoners in.

The same daye, in the afternoene, were apprehended divers of the Privy Councell, and others that are hydden, sought for earnestlye, besydes all suche as were or are suspected for spyes or such lyke welwillers to the Spaniards, are dailye takyn.

The Presydent Viglius is kepte in his howse and streightlye guarded, and in all the howses of suche as are apprehended, entred solgiars where they remayne, allsoo the writings were visited and the clerkes detained.

This was consulted and agreed by the Estates of Henegowe, Artoys and Brabant, and is dailye thought that those of Flaunders will joyn with them; they were ij dayes in Mouns er they concluded.

They have greate companies of foote and horsemen in readynes, which all marche towards Bruxels from all quarters; and is sayd they will have owt the Spaniards and afterwarde conclude a peace amonge themselves.

The chief-doers herein are the nobles and gentlemen of all the Estates, Monsieur de Lalayn beinge a greate doer herein, in soo muche as he hath sayd to that he hath sett his hande in that quarrell, will he spend his bludde.

the broken state of that contrye, I knowe not. I feare in the ende the Spaniarde wyll make his benefyt therof. The Duke of Arskot, whoe is supposed to be the heade of the discontented ther, is thought a man of no vallew. I judge the imprisonyng of the Councell proceeded rather of furye then practyce, unles some of thos that are imprysoned, have geven ther secreat consent therunto. Me thinketh, yf it had bene a sett matter, Her Majesty shoold have ben made acquaynted withall, as also some assystaunce demaunded knowyng howe she is affected to Spayne. Besydes I doe not perceyve by Vyllyers' letters that the Prince of Orange shoold have any intellygence with them, whom I desyred to inform himselfe in that poynt and to advertyce, so that I conclude that this enterpryce hath furye for grownde and is no matter well dygested, and yet, if the Prince of Orange be drawn into the actyon by his dyrection, yt may prove a matter of great consequence, but I feare styll a fewe fayre woordes wyll appease the flemyshe furye.

Yesterdaye, I receyved a fewe lynes from Vyllers by the which I understande that owre merchauntes are at lybertye, and that the thirde of this monethe he shoold understande the Prince's resolutyon towching the poyntes he propowded unto him for an accorde, wheruppon I moved Her Majesty that staye myght be made in sendyng for the merchauntes, wherof I wrote unto Your Lordship in my last letters, wherunto she yeldid. Some what he hath wrytten unto me in cypher which for lack of my alphabeth I can not decypher. The Earl of Leycester acquaynted me with so muche of Your Lordship's letters as concerned the custome, whoe telleth me that Her Majesty maketh staye in resolvynge therein untill she receyve from Your Lordship the severall rates to the ende she may chuse the hiest. And, as Her Majesty is verry carefull to chuse the hiest, so am I verry fearefull to deale with the lowest in respect of the dowtefulnes of the tyme enapt for traffyque. (*Dom. pap.*, vol. 109, n<sup>o</sup> 6.)

The Duke of Aerschott (as is most certainlye sayd) hath openly declared him selfe to be innocent in all practyses past against the countrye and is joyned with the Estates, so as yt is thought he shalbe made their chief, and is sworne to them, also his brother Havre on thursdaye in the afternoene, and since meete dailye with the other in Councell, and often are sent with others to them that are ymprisoned.

Theis niewes greatlye perplexed the Spaniards, whoe, under shew of greate currence and braverye, inwardelye droupe and wounder what they are which presumed the apprehension of the Councell of Estates, swearinge they should all paye for their offence and that the spoyle of the whole countrye is theirs being all *Lutheranos*.

The Castellano Sancio d'Avilla with the chiefs of all the Spaniardes meete dailye in councell within the castell, whether they are all retyred with bagge and baggage.

They have called together the Spaniardes from all places, and meane to yncampe them selves three leagues hince betwene Lyre and Mackelyn and there to abyde the comminge of suche as will charge them. Their horsemen shall for the most parte of them lye about this towne, which shalbe their recourse if neede be.

Yt is thought the High Dutches will most of them hold on their syde, and the Wallons of Monsieurs de Hierges and Floyon, beinge both Barlamont his sonnes, and as many of their men as can be spared owt of Holland, Zelande and other places where they lye, shall with expedition repayre to the appointed incamping place.

Divers are of opinion that the Wallons will not take parte with the Spaniardes, which is the moste feare the Spaniardes have, for their hath all the tyme of theis warres ben certayn envious grudge betwene them, and that may chaunce wilbe revenged.

The Countye of Oversteyn (beinge coronell of the Dutches which lye in this towne) was on thursdaye laste in the castell, where he was willinglye suffred to departe, sware he woold performe his othe to the Kinge and would kepe the towne against all that would take yt to use any disordre therein. This doth somewhat putt the towne men in dowbte that, if the Spaniardes see any extrimitye, that then they will enter here. Yett many hope Monsieur de Champigni wilbe against yt and that none shalbe suffred to com in.

There are a pryntinge divers articles and poyntes wherebye shalbe knowen the certaintie wherefore the Councell of States were apprehended, allsoo what th'intent is of the States to doo with the men they have in readynes.

Rhoda, with others of the chiefest Spaniardes, sent to Monsieur de Champigney to request him to com and consulte amongst them, which he refused, alledginge that he was never called before, but that they had dealte without him, soo might they continewe, for he had sufficiencytly to busye him selfe to looke well to his charge.

This answer makes the Spaniards alltogether suspecte him, which he secmeth to make small accompte of.

On fridaye, here was publyshed that everye howsheolder shoulde by that night bringe in wrytinge what straungers laye in their howses, beinge no merchauntes, and was onelye don to understande what number of Spaniards were here.

Monsieur de Champigney sent a kinsman of his to Bruxels on wensdaye laste, but retornyd er he cam to the towne, for he should not have entryd; but on fridaye his secretarie was sent, whoe was lett in and led to Monsieur de Hees, whoe, understandinge that he was sent to the Duke of Aerschott, willed he should be led to him, whence, after somme conference had, he retornyd incontinent to Andwarpe, which increaseth suspicion amongst the Spaniards of him.

None can enter or comme owt of Bruxels withowt lycence of Monsieur de Hees, excepte he be a burges and wel knowen.

There are divers spcaches that the dobbel dealinge, by intercepting of certayn postes, hath movyd this suddayne rysinge of the States, and many affirme Monsieur de Rassinghein is stayed by the waye, and by him all the practyse discovered.

Here is crediblye reported by suche as have wrytinge that Casimirus is comminge, into this contrye with a powre, both horse and footemen, and be for the Generall-States in whose behalfe the yonge Countye of Egmont shalbe leader of 2000 horse, which, if continew, and they of the contrye kepe in one, no dowte but all will goo for the contrye's benefytt, and soo we shall have peace and quyetnes, which God of his goodnes send us.

(Record office, Cal., n° 1007.)

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MMCCI.

*Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(ANVERS, 16 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Positions occupées par les Espagnols. — Les comtes d'Egmont et de Lalaing, avec d'autres seigneurs, sont arrivés à Bruxelles.

The Spanyardes lye in Duffell and Wallen, being two towns havynge bridges over the water, on betwixt Antwerp and Macklyn, the other betwen Lyre and Macklyn.

They have taken S<sup>t</sup>-Barnarde's, an abbey ij leagues from Antwerp.

They kepe also Lyre.

On wednesday cam to Bruxells the Counte of Lalayn and Count Egmont, with the



barons of Beersele and of Gassbeck, with iiij<sup>xx</sup> gentillmen and 600 horse, and war met at Bruxelles with 1000 shott and 150 horse.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 919.*)

MMCCII.

*Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(ANVERS, 17 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Arrestation du prévôt Camargo. — Positions occupées par les Espagnols. — Convocation des États généraux. — On croit que les États de Flandre se joindront aux États de Brabant. — Armements des États. — Tentative des Espagnols contre Louvain. — Excursions de la garnison d'Alost. — Mécontentement des Wallons qui se trouvent en Zélande. — Les troupes allemandes restent neutres. — Tentative des Albanais contre Douay. — Les prisonniers de Bruxelles sont durement traités au Treurenberg. — Sanche d'Avila promet de ne nuire en rien aux bourgeois d'Anvers.

On sondaye laste in the afternoone, Camargo beinge provost marshall of the courte, a chief man and one of the castellano his counsellours, havinge intelligence that Zeratz, whoe was the last bourrowmaster in Bruxels, was com to towne, and thinkinge him to be one that coulde greatlye gyve intelligence of all that was passed in Bruxels, the sayd provost layd privilye for Zeratz and, assoene as he styrred owt of his lodginge, after a familiar fleeringe sorte saluted him and went talkinge together till Camargo had him where he thought sure of his intent, and then openly apprehended him in the Kinge's name by his officers, and with all spede led him toowardes the castell; but he fayled his intent, for the commons advertysed the Countye Oversteyn of his dealinge contrarie to the libertye of this towne, wherewithall the Countye mouved sent order by his garde to stop him of his passage which was presentlye donne and, ere Camargo was able to gett the castell, beinge overtaken, ran with the prysonner into a tower on the towne walles, which he shutt and kepte for entringe, which the commons fownde remedye for and with ladders scalled the place, entryd in at the toppes and fetched out the prysoner, slew one of the provoste's men and hurte the others, tooke Camargo (beinge allsoo shott into the legge) and led him prysoner to Oversteyn's howse, where he remayned till night, and then was sent to the castell, wether Rhoda wrote for him, promysinge to punishe suche presumptuosnes. Soo yt was ended with the delyverye of both prysoners, the one beinge retornyd to Bruxels with ease, and the other into the castell in greate grieff.

Hereuppon the Countye of Oversteyn cam to the markett place, where he thanked the burgeses of their willingnes to helpe his men, promysing he would stand unto them so as no disordre shoulde com or be suffred in the towne.

The same night, the Spanyardes tooke Willebrooke, a village lying on the river of Browges, where they have fortified them selves and stoppe the passage by water.

They tooke also S<sup>t</sup>-Barnardes, an abbye twoo leagues from Andwarpe, which lyeth on the ryver, and fortifie ytt allsoo.

They lye in Duffell and Wallen, twoo townes betwene this and Mackelyn on the ryver, soo as men can hardlye passe, but wilbe examined by them. Besydes they lye in Lyre and in all the villages and townes hereabowtes, and here they have their recourse too and froo; but we hope they shall not be suffred with any force to enter.

On mondaye, they proclaimed in Bruxels in brief what they intended, and requested all States of the landes to com thither to conclude their entrepryse, which is thought, wilbe donne, and shall meete on mondaye nexte.

There was on tewsdaye sent certayne to Gaunt there to conclude what they will doo, whoe promysed to resolve by frydaye, and to this ende all the States off Flaunders mett att Gaunt, and is nothingse dowbted but they will agree.

They kepe stronge watche within the towne, and the Spanyardes of the castell there darre not once stirre.

There was proclaimed on wensdaye in Gaunt that the Spanyardes of Alst and the Dutches of Dermondt were rebels, and that they shoulde not be assisted no waye and, if any were fownde abroade, to apprehende them and to bringe them to the justices, but, if they woulde not yelde, then to sley them.

Ther went from Ypre a captayn called Utenhove with 600 Wallons to lye abowt Dermont, and more shall followe from Gaunt and other places in Flaunders, which bringes appearaunce of agreement with the other States.

On mondaye mourninge, cam to Bruxels the Countyes of Lalayn and of Egmont with the barons Bearselle and of Gaesbeke, accompaynyed with above fowr score gentlemen and 600 horse. They of Bruxels mett them with 1000 schott and 150 horse. Since the other nobles followe and States of all places.

They prepare men with all expedition in all places, and wilbe a greate number, by that they be all together.

The Spanyardes still bragge yt owt, and are doinge of mischief where they can.

On wensdaye, they made a privie entrepryse to Lovayne, but, beinge discovered, was prevented, and fayled of their purpose. The same night isshewed owt of Aelst 1000 shott and 60 horsemen, went within twoo myles of Bruxels, fetched all the cattell they could gett and sett certaynes farmes a fyre, which donne retornyd back agayne.

They are not yett all payd and will not doo but what they thinke good, havinge ymprisoned the *Electo* for that he perswaded them to good rule.

The Castellano here demaunded certayn places nere the castell, but yt was refused him. Since there went a speache that he would have placed certayne ensignes of Spanyardes in the niew towne, but they have putt yt of.

The burgeses of this towne shall watch with the Dutches and officers and men appoynted to leade them, but yt is not yett agreed when.

All the Spanyardes that were left in Bommenye, have forsaken yt and Browershaven with the other fortes, and are com hether and lye within a league of this towne.

The Wallons are still in Ziricksee, not contented, their Coronell deteyned in holde, and will not stirre, butt spend and spoyle the poore burgesis. From divers other garrysons and holdes the most parte of Wallons leave them and com too Bruxels too sarve the States.

The Italians, Spanyardes and Portingall marchaunts requested of the Countye Oversteyn too have lycence that they might watche together in somme place, which was refused them, and charged to kepe no solgiars, nor assemblyes in their howses, but, if they lysted, to watche to take their tornes with their neyghbours.

The High Dutch coronels have assembled this four dayes together to consulte what partes they were best to take, and are thus agreed to kepe suche places as their men lye in for the Kinge against all suche as might make any entrepryse thereon, and, the Kinge's pleasure beinge knowen and they payd, then to departe. I pray God all be trewe.

Certayne light horsemen Albaneses made an entreprise at Douay, meaninge to have takyn yt, butt were disappoynded; and since (as yt is here reported) the sayd horsemen are overthrowen by the bandes of ordinauneye.

Certayn of the prysoners that were apprehended in Bruxels, are putt into a tower called Treurenborgh, where none com, but be sharpelye dealte with and paye with their lyves, if they have offended, and are called Fonck, Del Rio, Boishott, and some saye Assonville allsoo.

There shall entre this daye into towne two insignes of solgiars, High-Dutches, and are for the better sovegarde of this place from all inconvenience. The Captayne of the castell, to putt the burgeses owt of conceyte that he pretended no harme to them, sayd he would have had Spanyardes in for their better saultie, and was willinge to sware that he will suffer no hurte, nor disordre to be donne by the Spanyardes: wherefore he was thanked, but his othe not takyn.

From Andwerp, 17 september 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 920.)

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MMCCIII.

*Villiers au Secrétaire Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 22 SEPTEMBRE 1576.)

Les marins de Flessingue viennent de saisir deux navires d'Ipswich. — Urgence des réclamations à présenter de ce chef.

Monseigneur, Je suis nouvellement relevé d'une maladie qui m'a seulement laissé depuis deux jours, aiant eu la siebyre depuis quinze jours. Cella m'excusera si je ne vous escriis si au long que j'eusse bien désiré. Avant-hyer fust amenée à Flesinghe la barque de Boulongne, navire de Sa Majesté, prise avecq deux navires marchants d'Ipswich, dont l'un est entièrement chargé de draps, l'autre d'un peu de draps pour des Anglois, et de sel pour un de nostre Église. Le sachant, encores que je fusse bien malade, je me leyai et allai trouver Son Excellence, qui me dist, veu les bons commandements, qu'il voudroit pour beaucoup que ceste prise n'eust esté faicte. Toutesfois à l'heure il m'accorda que le navire de la Roine seroit rendu au maistre, avecq tout ce qui lui auroit esté pris, et commanda qu'on en fist diligente inquisition. Deux heures après, les facteurs me donnèrent une requeste laquelle je présentai, et à l'instant il escrivit à Flesinghe qu'ils ne procédassent à l'adjudication jusques à lundi, et qu'il eust cogneu plus amplement du faict. Cependant, prévoiant que lundi viendra et passera, et que ceste chaleur de poursuite des matelots, que j'avoï refroidi, ne faillira de s'allumer, j'ai conseillé à ce jeune homme d'aller en Angleterre, tant pour communiquer à ses maistres que pour avoir quelques lettres de Messieurs. Ce pendant j'empescherai l'adjudication le plus que je pourrai, et pense y faire quelque chose. Quant aux lettres, il me semble qu'elles doivent estre fondées sur la concession si libérale faicte par Sa Majesté et Messeigneurs du Conseil sur vostre sollicitation fondée sur une simple lettre qui vous avoit esté escrite, par laquelle je vous déclaroi quelle estoit la bonne volonté de Son Excellence, qu'il auroit desfendu à ses navires d'assailir aucun navire anglois; que là dessus cessation d'armes leur auroit esté accordée, laquelle, comme vous auriez esté advertis, leur auroit esté signifiée au Conseil des Estats de Zéelande le lundi 17 du présent; que nonobstant le navire de la Roine auroit esté investé et les deux aultres navires par ceuls de Flesinghe, partant qu'ils les doivent rendre par tous droiets, etc. Il me semble qu'il n'est point besoing de faire mention de moi, mais seulement en général. Et me semble bon d'en faire deux, l'une à Son Excellence, l'autre aux Estats, laquelle il n'y a pas de danger qu'elle soit un peu rude. Toutesfois, quoi que nous

facions, je pense que ce sera beaucoup fait, si nous retirons lesdictes navires sans qu'il couste aux propriétaires, et beaucoup; car, quoi que je die, il me respondent tousjours la vielle leçon, qu'ils ne permettront point qu'on aille en Flandres, et que ces navires alloient à Nieuport. Je réplique bien, mais en somme ils sont juges. J'ai ici ce mal que je ne puis parler qu'obliquement, à cause qu'il me fault tousjours parler en la qualité que j'ai tousjours prise. Tousjours je ferai ce que je pourrai. J'estoi sur la sollicitation de ma despeche, quand ceci est arrivé. Je veoi ici une longueur qui dépend de ce que les Estats délibèrent de ces affaires, qui sont longs à se résoudre en tout, et je veoi que leur desfaicte est fondée à présent que je leur ai fait entendre, voire qu'ils voient par effect l'intention de Messeigneurs du Conseil, sur la dépesche de Monsieur de Bertelai, et principalement sur le passeport qu'ils ont demandé, qui me fait vous supplier de me l'envoier par ce porteur, affin que j'en face une fin; car, si je n'ai moi en les presser, je crain qu'ils ne se remuent guères. Cependant je désireroi bien pouvoir estre pardecà, si c'estoit la volonté de Dieu, lequel je prie, Monseigneur, vous vouloir conserver et tous Messeigneurs du Conseil.

A Midelbourg, ce 22 septembre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 922.)

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### MMMCCIV

#### *Avis des Pays-Bas.*

(DUNKERQUE, 2 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Siège de la citadelle de Gand. — Renforts envoyés aux assaillants par le prince d'Orange. — Il est défendu, sous peine de la vie, de prononcer le nom de Gueux. — Le prince d'Orange s'efforce d'assurer le repos en Hollande et en Zélande. — On a publié de nouveau le ban contre les soldats espagnols. — Cotton a été arrêté à Anvers. — A Bruxelles on a mis en liberté Viglius et d'autres prisonniers. — On reprendra, dit-on, les négociations de Breda. — On annonce la capitulation prochaine de la citadelle de Gand. — Positions occupées par les Espagnols.

Come havevi inteso il castello di Guantes resta assediato, pero sin qui non li hano dato assalto. Dicono che dentro vi sia da 100 soldati et altante donne o piu e da 500 fanciulli. Hano battuto la villa 2 o 5 giorni et dipoi cessato. Il S<sup>r</sup> Conte de Rus va radunando gente assai, tanto qui del paese come di quelle del Principe, e sin'hora debe havere da 15<sup>m</sup> homini, tutti volonterosi di dar l'assalto, et se pur in effetto lo vorrano dare non doverano tardare molto: prego Idio lassì seguire quanto fia per meglio. Si

tiene per certo che questi Stadi siano tutti d'accordio con quelli di Ollanda e Zelanda, de quali doa Stadi viene in soccorso di questi che manda il Principe 22 insegne et 40 tiri di bronzo, et accio che no' naschi qualche rumore, hano publicato che non si parli piu de Gusi sotto pena della vitta, e anche hano publicato che sia data licentia a tutti li stranieri di qual si voglia natione che saranno trovati tra questi soldati che sono in servitio delli Stadi; e hieri hano qui dato licentia a certi Inglesi che si trovavano tra questi soldati venuti ultimamenti di Brugies, et in loco di essi pigliano altri del paese, di modo che tengo che quelli vogliono venir di costi, se sono Inglesi no harano di qua piazza, et se il Principe mandera via li Scocese e altri che in suo servitio tiene e fara uscire li soldati fiaminghi per venir di qua come di gia ha dato principio quel paese di Ollanda e Zelanda restera in quiete, e ben presto potrebbe restare questo di qua ancora per altro mezo di quel che si giudica. Hano dominica passata di novo publicato li Spagnoli rebelli cioe li soldati et ogni altro soldato di qual si voglia natione che con loro saranno, e difeso sotto pena della vitta che no li sia dato agiutto di qual si voglia maniera, e che dove siano trovati, siano amazzati: di modo che fa molto male andare atorno e massime che rassomiglia a Spagnuolo. Di Brugies scrivono che in Anversa haveano preso il Coton, Inglese, con altri 20 per qualche trattato scoperto. In Brussells hano cavato di prigione il Pressidente Viglius, quello di Gheldria con il Secrettario Berti et l'altro secrettario, et ogniuno rimesso in suo stato, e cosi spero che a poco si potrebbe accordare questa differenza, e per quello dicono pigliano il camino del acordio che si concluse a Breda, e tiensi che no darano altrimenti l'assalto al castello di Guante per essere venuto fori doi, quali hano rifferto che no si può piu longamente tenere, il che par[e] strano a molti che tengono vi debbi essere da mangiare per un pezzo, e massime che 12 giorni fa li fu dato dal Conte di Rus 150 sacchi di furmento, senza la provigione havevano prima: Dio voglia sia guidato in modo che questi affari che ne partorisca una bona pacie. Li soldati spagnioli restan ancora in Alst al solito, e Mondragon, con il Conte di Mega, figlio di Mons<sup>r</sup> di Burlamont, sono al passaggio di fronte di Anversa, che fano un' forte, et si dice che il Duca di Bronzuich con 4<sup>m</sup> cavalli viene per assistenza del Re: pero non si sa di certo. Il Principe non da piu licentia a nave alcuna che vadino a rubare, e tutte quelle vi vengono le fa dittenere <sup>1</sup>.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 958.)

<sup>1</sup> John Mersh écrivait le 25 octobre 1576 à lord Burleigh que quelques marchands anglais, voyant que les marchands flamands n'osaient se mettre en mer par crainte des corsaires de Flessingue, avaient essayé d'établir des relations commerciales directes entre Anvers et l'Espagne, mais qu'ils ne méritaient aucune faveur, puisqu'ils avaient ainsi contribué à élever le prix de tout ce que les marchands anglais allaient acheter en Espagne. (*Dom. pap.*, *Add.*, vol. 24, n° 94.)

MMMCCV.

*Thomas Copley à lord Burleigh (Extrait).*

(LIERRE, 12 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Roda l'a engagé à prendre le commandement d'une compagnie formée des Anglais qui résident à Anvers. — Il a refusé et s'est retiré à Lierre.

Right honorable, After my duetie in moste humble wise remembred, for that I imagine the diverse and sundrie brutes geeven out of the occurrentes that happen on the one side and th'other in theis broilles wherwith this country is now infested, are there as untrewé or at the least as uncertaine as they be heere amonges our selves, where the diversitie of humors is suche as hardly are thinges truely reported that are donne even in the townes where we be, in so muche as touchinge myne owne particuler yt hatlie of late byn reported in moste of the townes herabouts and in Andwerp self that I should be there apprehended, for I wott not what attempt in favour of the Spaniardes (a crime I trust not inexpiable yf yt hadd byn so), which reporte, I may well thincke, flew as fast that way where yt might be thought like to be willingly hearde of many, as this way where, I thancke God, fewe appeered that rejoyced thereat, eyther Spaniard or honest Fleming. I have thought good in discharge of my duety and the bond I owe to Your Lordship to let the same understand directly from my self, the truthe bothe of my present estate and of the course I have hitherto taken in theis garboiles, which God end to his glorie. On thursdaie the xiiij<sup>th</sup> of the last month, Señor Hieronimo de Roda (in whose person the Counsaill of the warres, the masters of the camp, coronells and others that have the principal charge and gouvernement heere for the Kinge's Majesty have acknowledged to rest the ryghte and autoritie to governe theis Estates for His Majesty, till other ordre arrive) did send for me to come and speake with him the next morninge earely, which when I did, he breake with me touchinge the levyenge of a company of Englishemen, of suche as were to be founde on this side the sea, and requiered me to take on me that charge. I, remembringe how evell my last dealinge in the commission geeven me for sea service to be procured to His Majesty against his rebelles, was taken at home, and what promis I had made by my letter to the Quene's Majeste my soveraigne ladic and mistres not lightly to medle any more in any suche service, as I might thincke wolde be there offensively taken, and therwithall wayenge that I stode (as I trusted) at this present in reasonable good termes at home and in the good grace of Her Majestie so farre as the tyme and my ease might permitt,

besought the said Señor Roda to spare me, and, alledging to him some other causes, *in fine*, refused flatly to meddle in the matter with any charge, remaininge redie notwithstandinge with myne owne person and servantes to ymploy my self in suche sorte, when I shoulde see tyme, as it should well appeere to him and the rest of my Lordes of the Counsaill that I did not refuse the charge he offered me, for any feare to looke th'ennemies in the face, which: as they knewe, I hadd donne often at the recovery of the ilandes of Duveland and Schowen and at sundry other tymes, or ells for any want of goodwill to th'advancement of the Kinge's Majesti's service, wherunto I stode bounde in respect of the relief I have at His Majesti's handes, but for suche causes as *in fine* yt pleased him to allowe of. So nowe I stand at this present withdrawn to this towne of Liere, at liberty, I thanck God, and in good suerty, I trust, with my wyfe and children, lodged by appointment as a gentleman of the Courte, and not as a souldior subject to any commaundement further then shall please myself. Wherof I have thought good as before somewhat at large to advertise Your good Lordship to th'end that, yf Your Lordship shall heare any other reporte or vayne discourses of evell tongues touching me or my proceedinges, Your Lordship, understandinge from my self the very truthe, may be hable (yf it lyke yow) to answer for me, as my patronne, in whose favour I repose singuler confidence.

(*Record office, Dom. pap., Add.*, vol. 24, n° 93.)

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MMMCCVI.

*Le prince d'Orange aux lords du Conseil privé.*

(MIDDELBURG, 13 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Lettre de créance pour Jacques Taffin.

Messieurs, Je n'ay jamais doubté de la bonne affection que vous avez porté tant au bien et repos de la Chrestienté que particulièrement à l'avancement de ceste charge que j'ay prise, laquelle m'a semblé tousjours si nécessaire pour le public que pour icelle je n'ay faict aucune difficulté de m'y employer de toute ma puissance, et ne fay aucune doute (comme n'estant pas aymé de tous, aussi par la conduite et persuasion d'aucuns) que les affaires qui se sont dernièrement présentés entre nous et les Marchans Adventuriers, n'eussent esté grandement enaygries, sinon que par vostre pru-



dence elles eussent esté modérées. Ce que fait que me confiant entièrement en vostre dite prudence, je me suis remis au bon jugement et advis de Sa Majesté et de vous, Messieurs, estant assuré que personne n'y peut voyr plus clair que vous, et que nul en jugera plus équitablement, regardant au bien et à l'avancement du traffic. Pour vous déclarer ceste mienne intention, je vous envoie le S<sup>r</sup> Taffin, présent porteur, auquel j'ay donné amples instructions et mémoires, suivant lesquelles, Messieurs, il vous advertira de ce qu'il m'a semblé et me semble estre expédient, remettant néanmoins le tout à vostre décision, laquelle je ne doute debvoir estre telle que vous donnerez assez à cognoistre, ayant considéré la nécessité à laquelle nous sommes réduits, que vous aurez aussi esgard à ce que le bien public requiert, qu'aux complaints de quelques particuliers. Et sur ce, vous ayant présenté mes humbles et affectionnées recommandations, je prieray Dieu, Messieurs, qu'il vous vueille longuement conserver en bonne paix et union.

A Middelbourg, ce XIII<sup>e</sup> d'octobre 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n<sup>o</sup> 958.)

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MMMCCVII.

*Instructions données par le prince d'Orange à Jacques Taffin.*

(FLESSINGUE, 13 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Exposé des différends. — Deux questions restent à résoudre : elles se rapportent à un accord conclu avec les Marchands Aventuriers et à la navigation de l'Escaut. — En ce qui touche le second point, les navires devraient payer une taxe en Zélande. — Les actes de piraterie seront désormais défendus. — Confiance placée dans la bénignité de la reine qui n'abandonnera point les défenseurs d'une si juste cause.

*Mémoires et instructions pour le S<sup>r</sup> Jacques Taffin, allant en Angleterre, de ce qu'il aura à dire à Sa Majesté de la Sérénissime Roïne ou à son Conseil de la part de Monseigneur le Prince d'Orange et Estats d'Hollande et Zélande.*

Premièrement, après avoir baisé très-humblement les mains de Sa Majesté, de la part de Monseigneur le Prince d'Orange, déclarera à Messieurs de son Conseil l'extrême regret et ennui que Son Excellence a receu, entendant que Sa Majesté avoit conceu quelque indignation contre luy et les Estats de Hollande et Zélande.

Et affin que Sa Majesté fusse bien informée à la vérité des affaires et estat de

Hollande et Zélande, Son Excellence avoit suffisamment fait entendre aux Sieurs Winter et Beale comment le tout s'estoit passé depuis le commencement jusques à la fin; outre ce leur avoit baillé lettres, instructions et mémoires par lesquelles il appert clairement quelle a esté tousjours et sera à jamais l'intention et résolution de Son Excellence, sçavoir de soy régler et conformer au bon plaisir de Sa Majesté, luy rendant très-humble obéissance et révérence.

Comme aussy le S<sup>r</sup> de Villiers (estant icy arrivé à la requeste des églises estrangères résidentes en Angleterre) a bien cogneu et entendu, de sorte qu'estant Sa Majesté mieux informée que du passé, auroit de sa bonté et bénigne grâce, outre les précédentes promesses et commandemens, de rechief promis de faire relascher les quatre bateaux de guerre, dès longtemps arrestés à Falmuyen, comme aussy aultres navires marchants de Hollande et Zélande, ensemble aucuns capitaines et la pluspart des mariniérs détenus prisonniers en Angleterre.

Demeurants néantmoins en difficulté et différent deux points principaux: sçavoir sur le contract et accord fait entre Son Excellence et les Marchans Adventuriers, touchant le prest de 11<sup>e</sup> 111<sup>m</sup> florins et la délivrance de quelque gotelings, comme plus amplement est contenu audit contract et accord signé et scellé, comme il appartient.

La seconde difficulté est sous lesquelles conditions et assurance les navires d'Angleterre, principalement celles des Marchans Adventuriers, pourront cy-après librement passer pardevant Flessingue, et repasser, trafiquer et négocier avec ceux d'Anvers et Flandres.

Par quoy Son Excellence et les Estats d'Hollande et Zélande ont dépesché ledict S<sup>r</sup> Jacques Taffin vers Sa Majesté, pour la supplier très-humblement, après avoir mieux entendu leurs plainetes, raisons et allégations, qu'il luy plaise avoir regard et pourveoir au bien et soulagement de ceux de Hollande et Zélande, et ainsy en ordonner selon son bon plaisir.

Mais là où le Conseil de Sa Majesté ne seroit assez satisfait des arrests et actions passées par les mémoires, instructions et rapports que lesdicts S<sup>rs</sup> Winter et Beale pourroient avoir fait, en ce cas ledit Taffin pourra en brieff discourir et monstrier depuis le commencement jusques à la fin de quel pied, rondeur et sincérité Son Excellence et lesdicts Estats y ont procédé.

Il est vray que, dès le commencement de ceste guerre et jusques à présent, les subjects de Sa Majesté, sous ombre d'exercer leur traffiques et marchandises, ont adisté et furny à l'ennemy, vivres, sel, ammunitions et toutes sortes de marchandises, au moyen de quoy le Pays-Bas et ennemys de la cause ont grandement esté soustenus.

Item, ont esté trouvés et descouverts tant de sinistres complocts et feins contracts, compagnies et associations avec les ennemys, faulses charte-parties, empruntemens de leurs noms, faux serments et attestations, comme appert par un recueil délivré aux-

dicts S<sup>r</sup> Winter et Beale, au moyen de quoy les ennemys ont eu ce qu'ils ont voulu, se sont fortifiés et avancés au détriment et ruine de la commune cause.

Or, comme on s'est voulu opposer à telles fraudes et malversations, aucuns, poulés par leurs particulières passions, voians leurs marchandises estre jugées de bonne prinse par le Conseil de l'Admirauté de Zélande, ont eu recours aux calomnies et mesdisances, comme font ordinairement telle sorte de gens, remplissans les oreilles de Sa Majesté et de ceux de Son Conseil d'une infinité de plainetes et doléances.

Mais, comme ceux de Hollande et Zélande n'ont cherché revindication sur les sentences données par la Court de l'Admirauté d'Angleterre, au contraire aucuns Anglois, impatiens de se veoir condamner par le Conseil de l'Admirauté de Zélande, recogneu, selon le droiet commun, en tous royaumes et provinces, ont obtenu, sous leur faux donner à entendre, pouvoir d'arrester les navires de Hollande et Zélande, impétré lettres de mareque et représailles, sans préablement estre informés sous quels fondaments et raisons lesdits de l'Admirauté de Zélande ont donné leurs sentences, se trouvant pour telles occasions à tort et sans y penser arrestés et molestés.

Et de fait, comme le S<sup>r</sup> Rogerius, député par Sa Majesté en Hollande, se plaignoit à Son Excellence des sentences rendues par le Conseil de l'Admirauté en Zélande au préjudice des Anglois, Son Excellence à sa requeste députa quelques conseillers de son Conseil pour luy communiquer toutes les procédures des procès, les recoller et revisiter; finalement lediet Rogerius ne sceut dire aucune chose à l'encontre.

Mais, si l'on vient aux plainetes et doléances faictes par ceux d'Hollande et Zélande, pour les tors, extorsions et arrests contre eux faits par les Anglois, lediet Taffin en pourra monstrer une infinité d'exemples vérifiés comme il appartient, contenus au recueil qui a esté délivré aux S<sup>r</sup> Winter et Beale. Tant à quelques poursuites et devoirs qu'on ait secu faire en Angleterre, l'on n'a secu parvenir à la raison.

Et néanmoins, combien que pour tout cela Son Excellence et les Estats d'Hollande et Zélande ayent esté sollicités de vouloir octroyer contre-arrests et représailles sur les Anglois, si est-ce que pour le respect de Sa Majesté et le désir qu'ils ont de luy complaire en très-humble obéissance, ils n'y ont voulu entendre. Mesmes n'ont esté d'avis de fascher Sa Majesté par doléances et complainetes. Scellement ont renvoyé les complainans vers le Conseil de Sa Majesté, espérans que icelle, cognoissant à la parfin la vérité de toutes ces choses, seroit de tant plus enclinée de prohiber ces arrests et représailles à l'appétit de quelques particulières parties non ouies en leurs justifications et défenses.

Les choses continuans en tels termes, est advenu que, la délibération estant prinse de donner secours et ravictailler la ville de Ziericzee, il fust trouvé nécessaire et expédient, suivant l'ordre et le droit de la guerre pratiqué par toutes les nations du monde, de mettre en arrest tous navires et bateaux, mesmement les navires d'Ostlande, de France

et ceux d'Hollande estants ès ports de Zélande, affin que l'ennemy ne fust adverty de leur entreprinse, entre lesquels pour la mesme occasion certains bateaux des Marchants Aventuriers furent arrestés comme ceux de toutes aultres nations.

Pendant lequel arrest, ceux qui se sentoient avoir esté intéressés pour le regard des quatre bateaux de guerre susdiets (lors encores détenus en arrest, non-obstant les continuelles poursuites et promesses d'estre relaschés) formoient griefves plainctes et doléances de la grande oppression et torts qu'on leur faict, remonstrans les dommaiges irréparables reccus non-seulement en leur particulier, mais à toute la cause en général, requérans que l'arrest ne fust levé en Zélande desdits bateaux des Marchants Adventuriers, ains continué jusques à ce que raison leur fust faicte, lesdits quatre bateaux de guerre relaschés et leurs dommaiges réintégrés. Vindrent aussy advertissemens d'Anvers et d'aultres endroicts qu'èsdiets bateaux arrestés des Marchants Adventuriers y avoit beaucoup de marchandises appartenants aux ennemys de ces pays. Oultre ce on disoit qu'ung certain Southait, sans droict, ny raison, avoit obtenu lettres de marques et menaçoit d'arrester tout ce qu'il trouveroit de Hollande et Zélande.

Aucuns se vantoient que, aussi tost que les navires des Marchants Adventuriers seroient mis en liberté, qu'on ne faudroit à pourehasser semblables lettres de marques pour recouvrer leurs dommaiges et intérests. Semblablement nouvelles vindrent en ce mesme temps que aucuns Anglois avoient impétre congé de Sa Majesté, pour armer des vasseaux, affin par voye de faict et d'hostilité courre sus aux navires de Hollande et Zélande.

Toutes ces choses se rencontrants ensemble en un mesme temps, Son Excellence et lesdiets Estats ont esté contrainctz que l'arrest faict sur les navires des Anglois susdiets fust encores suspendu jusques à ce qu'on auroit supplié et démontré à Sa Majesté d'avoir pitié et compassion de ces pays et ne permectre que pour le regard de quelques particuliers une infinité de ses très-humbles et très-obéissans serviteurs périssent et soyent exposés à la mercy de leurs cruels ennemys.

Voilà en brief ce qui s'est passé d'une part et d'aultre, comme par le menu Sa Majesté aura peu entendre par les mémoires délivrés aux députés venus de sa part : ce que ledit Taffin pourra plus au long ou de point en point déduire, s'il en est besoing, selon les particularités qu'il porte avec soy.

Il reste deux difficultés qui sont à vuidier : sçavoir est si le contract faict entre eux sera entretenu selon sa forme et teneur ou non ; l'aultre touchant de la commodité et incommodité de la navigation à l'advenir.

Or, nonobstant toutes les raisons cy-dessus déduictes, Son Excellence, se confiant tant en la bonté de Sa Majesté qu'en la prudence de Messieurs de son Conseil, qui cognoissent quelle est la nécessité des Estats de Hollande et Zélande, attendu le faix de guerre qu'ils ont soustenu si long temps et contre tel ennemy, et d'avantage que ceste cause

leur touche de si près, généralement à tous ceux qui font profession de la vraie religion, mesmement sur la confiance que le S<sup>r</sup> Chestre depuis peu de jours en çà en a faicte, assurant Son Excellence de la favorable affection que Sa Majesté et Messieurs de son Conseil ont des affaires de Son Excellence et des Estats de Hollande et Zéelande et au bon succès d'icelle, veut remettre l'un et l'autre à leur jugement d'en faire comme ils trouveront la chose estre la plus advantagieuse pour le bien publicq.

Toutesfois, ledit Taffin remonstrera, si Sa Majesté et Messieurs de son Conseil trouvent que bon soit, ils feront cesser toute trafficque au Pays-Bas, tant desdits Marchants Adventuriers que de tous aultres marchans, tant subjects de Sa Majesté qu'aultres demeurants en Angleterre, de quelque nation qu'ils soient.

Si toutesfois se trouvoit que ladiete cessation de trafficque fust par trop dommageable aux subjects de Sa Majesté, supplie Son Excellence que Sa Majesté veuille permettre que les marchants venans d'Angleterre ès Pays-Bas soyent contraincts de mouiller l'ancre en Hollande et Zéelande, èsquels lieux aussy ils donneront quelque moyen pour ayder et soulaiger les frais de ceste longue et ennuyeuse guerre.

Que, s'il plaist à Dieu par les changements admirables et inespérés amener les affaires de Flandre et Brabant, ensemble l'intention de tous les Estats, à une bonne et heureuse fin, sçavoir de faire retirer les Espagnols, comme source et autheurs de tous les maux et calamités que ceste guerre a produit, et pacifier tous différens et discords en une bonne et salutaire paix, en ce cas Son Excellence et lesdits Estats d'Hollande et Zéelande, recognoissants la révérence et l'obéissance deue à Sa Majesté, mettroient incontinent à néant l'accord susdit, et les alliances anciennes entre Sa Majesté et les Pays-Bas seront de leur part d'autant plus confirmées que, pour le faict de la religion, icelle les aura maintenus et gardés de toute ruine et perdition.

Quant à l'assurance que Sa Majesté demande que doresnavant ceux de Flessingue n'endommaigent pas les subjects de Sa Majesté :

Premièrement, pour le regard de ce qui est passé, supplie très-humblement Son Excellence que Sa Majesté veuille se représenter les difficultés qu'il y a de contenir les gens de guerre en mer, ce qui n'est incognu à elle, ny à Messieurs de Son Conseil.

Quant à l'advenir, Son Excellence aiant retiré tous les congés d'aller en mer, avecq défense de laisser sortir aucun de Flessingue, espère bien y donner tel ordre à l'advenir qu'il ne sera donné aucune occasion à Sa Majesté de se plaindre.

Finallement, ledit Taffin, après avoir bien et au long et à la vérité remonstré au Conseil de Sa Majesté le zèle et affection que Son Excellence et lesdits Estats ont à la très-humble obéissance deue à Sa Majesté, et que leur desplairoit grandement de l'offenser en la moindre chose que ce soit;

Aussy de l'estat et condition auquel ledit pays d'Hollande et Zéelande se retrouve, et qu'il est difficile à Son Excellence de gouverner ung peuple sur lequel on n'est le

maistre, ny seigneur, que la subsistence de ceste guerre consiste de la volonté et libéralité de la commune.

Ne se trouvera estrange si Son Excellence n'est obéie en tout et partout, ainsy qu'il seroit bien requis et nécessaire, mesmement envers ceux allant en la mer, là où ils ont de coustume de commander mesmes et ne sont retenus par aultres loix et menasses que aussi avant que bon leur semble.

Ainsy doneques Sadicte Majesté, bien entendu ce que dessus, plaira à icelle de le prendre de bonne part, de ne vouloir croire légèrement aux rapporteurs et délateurs malveuillans de Son Excellence qui prennent plaisir de dénigrer et calomnier ses actions, plus en hayne de la commune cause que pour le regard de son particulier.

Pour conclusion, Son Excellence et lesdits Estats d'Hollande et Zéelande se remettent totalement à la bénignité, débonnairté et prudence de Sa Majesté, pour leur commander son très-noble plaisir, ainsy que à ses propres subjects, et comme si les guerres et affaires de Hollande et Zéelande luy compétassent en particulier et se fissent en son nom, estants tellement assurés de la bonté et puissance de Dieu que l'issue sera heureuse et réussira à la gloire de son nom, protection et salut de Son Excellence, desdits Estats de Hollande et Zéelande et de leurs associés combatans et exposans couragieusement leurs corps et biens pour une si juste et sainte querelle.

Faict à Flessingues, le xiii<sup>e</sup> jour d'octobre 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n<sup>o</sup> 959.)

MMCCCVIII.

*Les États généraux à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(BRUXELLES, 16 OCTOBRE 1576)

Lettre de créance pour James Harvie.

Madame, Vostre Majesté entendra, par nos lettres qu'avons délibéré envoyer de brief par le baron d'Aubigny<sup>1</sup>, les occasions qui nous ont meu et constraint à prendre les

<sup>1</sup> On lit dans le registre des États généraux, à la date du 16 octobre 1576 :

Il plaira à Messieurs du Conseil d'Etat faire despescher lettres de créance à la royne d'Angleterre sur le nom de Jacques Herryv, Anglois, affin d'avoir en favorable recommandation les affaires que de la part des députés des Estats des Pays-Bas rassemblés en ceste ville ledit Herryv représentera à Sa Majesté;

Semblables lettres à la dite Royne pour le seigneur baron d'Aubigny.

Fiant lettres, *ut petitur*, seulement de recommandation. (Archives de Bruxelles.)

armes, quy est pour parvenir à ung commun repos et tranquillité de ces pays et les réduire et remettre, s'il est possible, en l'estat qu'ils estoient auparavant ces troubles, à ce que le commerce se puist restablir avecque les provinces voisines, parmy faisant sortir les Espaignols et estraingiers leurs adhérens, nous estans volontairement taxés et soumis à contribuer aux frais qu'il y conviendra nécessairement exposer et supporter par divers moyens. Mais, comme par iceulx les deniers ne reviennent si tost en bourse qu'il seroit bien requis, pour furnir promptement à une si notable somme que emporte avecq soy le mestier de la guerre <sup>1</sup>, et que par la citadelle et aultrement les affaires d'Anvers sont si troublées que la seurté de contracter avecque les marchants illecq est présentement bien mal à la main et difficile, nous sommes advanchés, sous la confiance de la singulière affection, bonne grâce et faveur que Vostre Majesté a tousjours portée à ces provinces et pays, ses voisins et anchiens confédérés, la supplier très-humblement nous vouloir assister ou faire assister de deux à trois cens mille angelots à intérêt gracieux et honeste pour quelque brief terme et sous bonne et pertinente obligation, que sommes prest de passer au contentement de Vostre Majesté, dont le porteur de ceste, Jacques Herry, est instruit, comment en cest affaire il se aurat à conduire. Et, s'il plait à Vostre Majesté que lesdictes obligations soyent formées et conservées sur quelques particuliers marchans, affin que ceste négociation demeure secrète à l'endroit de Vostre Majesté pour certains bons respects, icelle Vostre Majesté en ordonnera à son bon plaisir: supplians Vostre Majesté ne nous vouloir rejeter en cest besoing, veu mesmement que espérons que le fruit et heureux succès de ceste entreprise redondra au prouffict commun de nous et nos voisins, et oultre ce que Vostre Majesté fera œuvre agréable vers Dieu, elle se rendra immortelle par tout l'univers d'avoir assisté à tirer comme hors de captivité et servitude extrême ses bons voisins et plus anchiens amis, alliés et confédérés, ausquels aussy demourera l'obligation perpétuelle de le recognoistre par tel service que luy plaira leur commander et le bon traitement que se fera pardeçà à ses subjects en tout ce qu'ils sçauoient requérir.

Madame, nos très-humbles recommandations prémises à la bonne grâce de Vostre Majesté, prions le Créateur donner à icelle très-heureuse et longue vie.

De Bruxelles, le 16<sup>e</sup> d'octobre 1576.

(Publié par M. DE JONGHE, *Corresp. des États généraux*, t. I, p. 260.)

<sup>1</sup> La gêne des États des diverses provinces était extrême. Dès le mois de septembre, ils avaient fait des emprunts à divers personnages, notamment à Viglius: « A me nomine Statuum Brabantia, Flandria et Hannonia enixe postulatam fuit uti et ego vellem adjutrices manus illis accomodare. »

(*British Museum, Harley, 5421.*)

## MMMCCIX.

*Les États généraux au comte de Leicester.*

(BRUXELLES, 16 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Même objet.

Monsieur le Conte, Nous avons enchargé à ce présent porteur, Jacques Herry, marchand anglois demourant en la ville d'Anvers, de traicter de nostre part devers la Royne d'Angleterre aulecuns affaires notoires, en quoy il plaira Vostre Seigneurie luy donner favorable audience et adres, et nous ayder de vostre recommandation vers Sa Majesté pour l'équité que espérons trouverez audit affaire, et que la conséquence d'icelles ne donnerat que augmentation de repos et liberté de trafficque à Sadicte Majesté et ses subjects, par où nous obligerez, Monsieur le Conte, à tout affectionné service, et prions Nostre-Seigneur Dieu vous conserver, Monsieur, en sa grâce.

De Bruxelles, le xvi<sup>e</sup> d'octobre 1576.

(Publié par M. DE JONGHE, t. I, p. 262.)

## MMMCCX.

*Instruction donnée par les États généraux à James Harvie.*

(BRUXELLES, 16 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Emprunt de trois cent mille angelots à conclure en Angleterre.

*Mémoire et instruction de ce que Jacques Herryvuy aurat à traicter et négocier devers la Royne d'Angleterre de la part des États des Pays-Bas assemblés en la ville de Bruxelles.*

Premièrement, le dict Herryvuy présentera les lettres de crédençe aux contes et seigneurs estans du Conseil de la dite Royne, affin d'avoir les affaires desdicts États en favorable recommandation.

Et après se trouvera vers ladicte Royne et luy exhibera les lettres de crédençe de



messeigneurs du Conseil d'Etat du Roy Catholique, nostre sire, députés au gouvernement général desdicts pays, ensamble les lettres que lesdicts Estats icy assemblés escripvent à Sadiete Majesté.

Suivant quoy se meetra en tout debvoir de trouver deniers et négocier pour iceulx jusques à la somme de trois cens mil angelots, plus ou moins, à gracieux et honeste intérêt, soubz bonne et pertinente obligation que lesdicts Estats donneront, dont il monstrera et exhibera la minute pour estre corrigée, ampliée et arrestée au contentement de ceulx quy furniront les deniers, et prestement renvoyera ladicte minute, pour par les Estats estre mis en forme signée et scellée d'iceulx, et aussitost estre remise ès mains dudiet Herrvy pour la délivrer ausdicts marchans.

Bien entendu que, si lediet Herrvy trouve moyen de recouvrer promptement aucuns deniers comptant, soit cent, deux cent ou trois cens mil florins, pourra lever iceulx à tel raisonnable intérêt qu'il trouvera, non excédant enze ou douze pour cent, et ce sur ses lettres propres, lesquelles mesdicts S<sup>r</sup> les Estats tiendront et tiennent dès maintenant pour vailables, quant les deniers réellement et effectivement leur seront délivrés, au lieu desquelles lettres feront tenir audiet Herrvy leurs obligations signées et scellées comme il appartient, au contentement dudiet Herrvy, pour rachapter les siennes.

Au surplus, lediet Herrvy ferat tout le debvoir requis à l'exécution de sa charge, selon l'intention desdicts Estats et l'entière confiance qu'ils ont en luy et dont il sera recogneu à son contentement.

Faict à Bruxelles, en plaine assemblée desdicts Estats, le xvi<sup>e</sup> d'octobre 1576.

(Publié par M. DE JONGHE, t. I, p. 258.)

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MMMCCXI.

*Le ministre Villiers à Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 17 OCTOBRE 1576.)

On annonce l'arrivée prochaine de trois ou quatre mille Français. — Les populations ne sont pas disposées à les recevoir.

Monsieur, Depuis mes lettres esrites, j'ai appris que le gentilhomme duquel je vous ai escrit, apporte nouvelles que 3000 arquebuziers et 1000 chevaux, envoyés par

Mons<sup>r</sup> le Duc, payés pour trois mois, entrent au Païs-Bas : je n'ai encores sçeu le nom des chefs. Ceulx du païs, comme ils se préparent à n'estre point ingrats, aussi ils sont résolus de ne les laisser entrer en pas une ville d'importance, et desjà parlent de les desjoindre, et advancent le pourparlé affin que la conjunction soit faicte devant qu'aucune jalousie entrevienne. Il ne fault doubter que la conjunction ne se face; et dedans dix jours, Dieu m'ayant remené en Angleterre, je vous en dirai d'avantaige.

Je prie Dieu, Monseigneur, de vous conserver.

A Midelbourg, ce 17 octobre 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 970.)

### MMMCCXII.

*M. Fremin à Walsingham.*

(BRUXELLES, 17 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Négociations avec le prince d'Orange. — Surprise de Maestricht par les Espagnols. — Troubles de Liège. — Armements des États. — Situation périlleuse de la ville d'Anvers. — Mort de l'empereur.

Monsieur, Je vous ay dernièrement escript; je croy que aurez reseu mes lettres. Quant aux nouvelles de par-desà, les choses commencent (comme il fault) à présent, car devant que les États eussent donné ordre de eux assambler en général pour remédier et résister au mal prochain d'un sy facheux ennemy que l'Espagnol et de ceux qui leur assistent, il a falu du temps, comme aussi pour le fait du Prince d'Orange, vers lequel ils ont envoyé leurs députés pour moyenner un bon accord, pour l'utilité publique de tout le Païs-Bas : ce que on tient pour accordé pour le présent, pour et affin d'avoir meilleur moyen de chasser l'ennemy commeun du païs, dont les États s'y employent et les principaux seigneurs du païs, dont, avant qu'il soit peu de mois, on verra les effects, et ne lessent riens dont ils se puissent servir ou prévalloir. Et, quant à ce qui est advenu samedy dernier de la surprise de Mastic, les Allemans qui estoient dedans, en sont aucteurs, d'autant qu'ils avoient promis et juré aux bourgeois de tenir bon avec eux, pour les États : lesquels ils ont trahis, donnant entrée aux Espagnols, lesquels n'ont houblyé de heuser de toutes les cruautés dont ils se sont peu aider à l'endroit des abitans, et ce pour trois jours durant avec le pillage et ce qui s'en ensuit, tout ainsi que sy c'eust esté ville prise d'asault. Sur cela, les Liégeois ce sont mutinés et ont prins les armes, et ont prins quelques Anglois, disant qu'ils estoient traistres et

qu'ils avoient intelligence avec les Espagnols, et bien peu fallu qu'ils n'aient esté taillés en piesses. Sur ces entrefaites, l'esvesque s'en est fuy. Ils ont prins un des fils de Monsieur de Barlemont qui estoit provost de l'évesché de Liége, qu'ils tiennent prisonnier. Ils se sont déclarés pour les Estats, et dit-on qu'ils veullent assiéger Mastric pour le ravoir, d'autant que la moitié de la ville leur appartient, et pour se vanger de la cruaulté de l'Espagnol qui ont tué au nombre de douze à quinze cens personnes de sanc froit. Et on tient que la citadelle de Gant sera prise à la fin de ce mois pour le plus tart. Il y a un campt vollant qui s'achemine vers Allost, pour les Estats, où se viennent joindre quinze enseignes du Prince d'Orange : le campt pourra estre de dix mil hommes de pied et deux mil chevos, en attendant les forces qui s'assemblent de jour en jour. Jamais les Espagnols ne furent plus hays en lieu que sont pour le présent par-desà. On tient que la ville de Szericcée se rent au Prince d'Orange avec toute le reste de l'isle, et que Montdragon qui est assiégé dans Saint-Martin avec 150 Espagnols est sur le poinct d'estre prins des forces du Prince d'Orange. On dit que Roda et le chastelain de la citadelle d'Anvers ont envoyé vers le Conte de Ubistain, coulannel du régiment d'Allemens qui sont dans la ville d'Anvers, qui sont treize ensaignes, assavoir s'il veult estre du costé des Espagnols ou bien des Estats, et qu'il ait à leur en randre responce dans trois jours au plus tart, qui doit finir demain. On ne sait encores qu'il en fera. Il n'y a pas grande assurance aux Allemans, combien qu'ils aient envoyé leurs députés vers les Estats, qui sont encores en ceste ville; cepandant les Allemans qui sont dans Mastric, sont du régiment dudit Conte de Ubistain. Cepandant la ville d'Anvers aura tousjours à souffrir oultre le danger où elle est. Samedy dernier il fut tiré six ou sept coups d'artillerye à la Maison de la ville que aultres endrois de la citadelle, et mandement aux bourgeois d'aporter leurs armes au château : ce qu'ils ont refusé tout à plat de faire.

Il y a en ces païs encores d'Allemans cinquante et six ensaignes, à 500 homes pour ensaigne, qui sont espars par les villes et villettes. Et cepandant si manquent aux Estats, on leur torchera bien le derrière d'autre chose que de paille. Avant qu'il soit la moitié du mois qui vient, il i aura pour le moins 25 mil hommes de pied ensemble pour les Estats, sans la cavallerye, qui sont forces suffisantes pour faire de grandes choses sans l'ayde des voisins, s'il en est de besoin. C'est belle chose de voir le courage des Seigneurs, et les beaux régimens qu'ils dressent, et principalement celuy de M. le Conte d'Aiguemont qui est un brave seigneur et qui prommet quelque chose de bon.

Ce jourduy a esté fait cry public par ceste ville de par les Estats, pour l'ogmantacion de l'or et monnoye, deux patars pour escu et six pour l'angelot; le sou de France vaust un patar.

L'empereur est mort le 12<sup>e</sup> de ce mois, deux jours après que son fils le Roy des Romains le vint trouver.

Aultre chose n'y a pour le présent, qui sera l'endroit, après avoir salué vos bonnes grasses de mes très-humbles recommandations, je priroy le Créateur qu'il vous donne, Monsieur, en parfaite santé, longue et heureuse vye et accomplissement de vos saints désirs.

De Brusselles, le 17<sup>e</sup> octobre 1576.

(*Record office, Cal.*, n° 969.)

MMMCCXIII.

*Les États généraux à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(BRUXELLES, 18 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Lettre de créance pour le baron d'Aubigny. — S'ils ont pris les armes pour chasser les Espagnols, ils entendent rester fidèles au roi.

Madame, Comme il a pleu cy-devant à Votre Majesté par plusieurs fois donner à cognoistre la bonne affection qu'elle porte aux pays de pardechà, et le désir de les veoir réduits aux termes qu'ils estoient du temps de feu de louable mémoire le grand Empereur Charles, prince tant juste et amateur de la nation angloise (qui estoit ce dont nous-mesmes la debvions avoir requis, en cas qu'en eussions eu l'auctorité), nous confians qu'elle n'aura de nous eslongué sa bonne affection, avons, sous la faveur d'icelle, prins la hardiesse de représenter les troubles et esmotions, qui se sont puis naguères eslevées en ces Pays-Bas pour les insolences et mutineries tant de fois réitérées par les soldats espagnols, lesquels, ne s'estans voulu accomoder à aucune raison, ni juste satisfaction de leur traictement, ont continué en leurs extorsions, cruaultés, forces, voleries, meurtres et hostiles emparemens d'aucunes villes et places, sy nous ont contrainct à prendre les armes, avecq plaine et uniforme résolution de les faire sortir par force, puisqu'ils n'ont voulu recevoir aucune amitié, comme ennemis de Dieu, du repos publicq et rebelles de Sa Majesté, tels que jà par deux fois ont esté déclairés par Messieurs du Conseil d'Etat d'icelle commis au gouvernement général d'iceulx pays, la retraicte desquels espérons redunder non-seullement à nostre avantage, ains à tous nos voisins, spécialement aux subjects de Vostre Majesté, lesquels, après l'expulsion d'une sorte de gens du tout intollérable pour les raisons à chacun cogneues, pourront retourner à la contractation libre, suivant les anchiens entrecours jadis faicts et si bien observés par les princes de la maison de Bourgoingne, prédécesseurs du Roy nostre

maistre, par où ambedeux les provinces ne fauldront de croistre en toutes richesses et prospérité, comme du passé. Messire Gille de Lens, chevalier, baron d'Aubigny, porteur de ceste, a charge expresse de remonstrer à Vostre Majesté et protester, comme devant Dieu, que, par ceste levée d'armes forcée et seulement pour nous deffendre et garder que l'Espagnol ne lave ses mains en nostre sang, dont souvent il s'est vanté et fait encores journellement, n'entendons aucunement nous distraire de l'obéissance due à Sa Majesté Catholique, ny de la religion en laquelle sommes nais et qu'il luy plaist icy estre maintenue, ains seulement pour rentrer en paix et amitié avecq tous nos voisins, signamment avecq les provinces de Hollande et Zélande, puis quelques années ençà violement distraictes et séparées de nostre union par la tyrannie du soldat espagnol, estimans chose fort différente d'estre bon vassal et subject à la Majesté du Roy, comme avons esté et à ses prédécesseurs, nos princes naturels, et le serons à jamais, et d'estre traictés comme serfs et esclaves de chacun soldat espagnol et sa séquelle. De tant plus que sommes assurez l'intention de Sa Majesté estre que lesdicts soldats se retirent et que la paix se face, ladicte religion, notre ancienne catholique romaine, et l'obéissance, à luy due, toujours saulves et inviolablement maintenues.

Nous prions et requérons bien humblement Vostre Majesté de continuer vers nous son bon vouloir et ne vouloir permectre, ny souffrir que de son costé nous soit faicte aucune injure ou traverse, et du surplus, intercéder et impétrer de Sa Majesté Catholique favorable inclination à la juste pétition et requeste que luy faisons par lettres adreschées à Sa Majesté de nostre part : asçavoir que, mettant fin à tant de maulx et travaux, ces esmotions soyent tranquillées et quietées par l'office de sa nayve clémence, plustost que, en continuant telles rigueurs, le tout soit redigüé en une extrême et finale ruine et désolation, au grand préjudice de toutes les provinces voisines, voire de toute la chrétienté : en quoy Vostre Majesté nous obligera à le recognoistre en tout ce dont elle nous vouldra requérir, mesmement envers ses subjects trafficquans pardecçà, par quoy l'ayant derechief supplié ne dénier sa faveur en ceste tant juste cause, finerons ceste de nos recommandations les plus humbles et prières au Créateur qu'il doint Madame, à Vostre Majesté, en santé et prospérité, longues années.

De Bruxelles, le 18<sup>e</sup> jour d'octobre 1576 <sup>1</sup>.

(Publié par M. DE JONGHE, t. I, p. 255.)

<sup>1</sup> Le document original se trouve au *Record office*; il figure sous le n<sup>o</sup> 974 dans le *Calendar des Foreign papers* publié en 1880 par les soins de M. Allan Crosby.

## MMMCCXIV.

*Les Etats généraux à la reine d'Angleterre.*

(BRUXELLES, 48 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Ils sollicitent de la reine d'Angleterre un prêt de deux ou trois cent mille angelots.

Madame, Vostre Majesté a entendu par nos précédentes les occasions quy nous ont meu et contrainct à prendre les armes, quy est pour parvenir à ung commun repos et tranquillité de ces pays et les réduire et remectre, s'il est possible, à l'estat qu'ils estoyent auparavant ces troubles, à ce que le commerce se puist restablir avecque les provinces voisines, nous estants volontairement taxés et soumis à contribuer aux frais qu'il conviendra nécessairement exporter et supporter par divers moyens ; mais, comme par iceulx les deniers ne reviennent si tost en bourse qu'il seroit bien requis pour furnir promptement à une si notable somme que emporte avecque soy le mestier de la guerre, et que par la citadelle et aultrement les affaires d'Anvers sont si troubles que la seurte de contracter avecque les marchans illecq est présentement bien mal à la main et difficile, nous sommes advanchés, sous la confidence de la singulière affection et de la grâce et faveur que Vostre Majesté a tousjours porté à ces provinces et pays ses voisins et anciens confédérés, la supplier très-humblement nous vouloir assister de deux à trois cens mille angelots à intérêt gracieulx et honest, pour quelque brief terme et sous bonne et pertinente obligation que sommes prest de passer au contentement raisonnable de Vostre Majesté, dont le Sr d'Aubigny, porteur de ceste, a plein pouvoir pour l'asseurer, ainsy que en raison se trouvera convenir, suppliant Vostre Majesté ne nous vouloir rejeter en ce besoin, veu mesmement que espérons le fruit et heureulx succès de ceste entreprise redondra au prouffit commun de nous et de nos voisins, et, outre ce que Vostre Majesté fera euvre agréable vers Dieu, elle se rendra immortelle par tout l'univers d'avoir assisté à tirer comme hors de captivité et servitude extrême ses bons voisins et plus anciens amis, alliés et confédérés, ausquels aussy demourera l'obligation perpétuelle de le recognoistre par tel service que luy plaira leur commander et le bon traictement que se fera par-deçà à ses subjects, en tout ce qu'ils scauroyent requérir.

Madame, nos très-humbles recommandations prémisses à la bonne grâce de Vostre Majesté, prions le Créateur donner à icelle très-heureuse et longue vie.

De Bruxelles, le xviii<sup>e</sup> d'octobre 1576.

(Archives de la Haye, Reg. Angleterre, fol. 5.)

## MMCCXV.

*Instructions données par les États généraux au Baron d'Aubigny.*

(BRUXELLES, 18 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Le baron d'Aubigny s'efforcera de justifier la conduite des États en expliquant les mesures qu'ils ont prises pour l'expulsion des Espagnols. — Il priera la reine d'intervenir en leur faveur auprès du roi d'Espagne.

Le dict Baron d'Aubigny, Gilles de Lens, ayant charge et lettres des Estats à la Royne d'Angleterre, se transportera vers Sa Majesté à toute diligence, faisant les recommandations pertinentes desdicts Estats, et s'efforcera de captiver par tous moyens décens et pertinens la bonne grâce et faveur d'icelle et l'incliner, s'il est possible, de appréhender et prendre à cœur de bonne affection la cause de ces Pays-Bas, l'informant de la juste occasion de ceste emprinse, les foules et oppressions du soldat espagnol et tout ce quy en dépend.

Mesmemment que, à le souffrir plus longuement en ces pays, n'y a aultre apparence que d'une ruine totale, veu qu'ils empeschent par tous moyens la pacification, quy est le seul moyen pour restablir le commerce et trafficque avecq les provinces voisines, sans quoy bonnement ils ne peuvent subsister.

Joinet que, s'emparans du gouvernement perpétuel de ces pays, oultre la misérable captivité de servitude, en quoy seront réduits les manans d'iceulx anchiens voisins, amis et confédérés de Sa Majesté, n'y aura grande assurance de paix avecq les prochaines et voisines provinces.

Finalement, ledict S<sup>r</sup> d'Aubigny usera de toutes raisons et argumens qu'il pourra concepvoir selon l'intention des Estats, pour faire trouver bon à Sadiete Majesté tout ce que s'est passé, affin d'incliner et captiver la bénévolence d'icelle, et en ce nous favoriser, mesme de nous aider par tous tels moyens qu'elle trouvera convenir pour parvenir à ladiete pacification, seul moyen pour restaurer le commun et mutuel commerce, et à cest effect que son plaisir soit intercéder vers Sa Majesté Catholique, faisant effectuer ce dernier poinct d'escripre par la Royne au Roy nostre sire avant qu'il retourne, s'il est possible.

Faict à Bruxelles, le xviii<sup>e</sup> d'octobre 1576.

(Publié par M. DE JONGHE, t. I, p. 255.)

MMMCCXVI.

*William Herle à lord Burleigh (Extrait).*

(18 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Questions relatives au change des monnaies. — Il cherche à établir, par la lettre qu'il a naguère écrite au nom d'Élisabeth, qu'il n'a jamais songé à faire naître des germes de division entre la Zélande et la Hollande.

I have byn dellt with, since my commyng home, by an olld frynd of myne of 20<sup>u</sup> yeres acqwayntance, to have his humble good will long borne unto Your Lordship declared unto you. Ytt is Swigo ye Italyan, who bydding me to dyne with him yesterday, I ffound there Acerbo Vellutelli; and there they both, entryng into discourse with me of these exchaunge and rechaunge matters (which now ministers matter of sondry arguments among ye most parte of merchants), Acerbo told me yt of good will and duty yt he have unto you, and moved therunto partly by Swigo, whose papers he had exhibited, he sayd unto Your Lordship on sondaye att ye Court, and opened sondry menes unto you how you might establysse this pattent of exchange ffymely unto you, with grett lyking to all sorts and proffytt to your sellf, wherof (knowyng the oppynion yt Your Lordship had of me) he did this privately breke with me in, and yt Your Lordship had promised to send for him, when ye fyrst cum to ye towne: wherwith Swigo and he red unto me ye arteyles yt Your Lordship had [received], which, though they satisfied me nott in many respects, as things, me thought, yt they dyd nott throwly understand, deserved yett, I sayd, grett commendatyon, exhortyng theme to contynue in their course, for yt it is necessary yt Your Lordship sholld here all men, ye better to reppresse and redresse att on instant, and now ye rather yt a varlett on pesseyone hath sett ye rest of ye Italyens to spurn agaynst Your Lorldship and to exhibite complaynts therof in wryting to Her Majesti, and of ye other syde ye Flemmyngs (who ar ye corruptest men this daye in their traffyck yt be) do even conspire to withstand ye cowrse yt is taken, to ye uttermost encoraiged secretly therunto by Guerras (which I have from a very good place) who payd a crowne for ye arteyles and proclamatyon yt is in prynte touching ye exchange and rechange and sent them to ye King into Spayne, wheruppon ye rest do depart now to daye. Swigo cam to mi lodging and brought with him a paper, which I have closed herin, distynguisshing those Italyens yt be willing to obey this order for ye exchange, from ye rest, and deserybeing ye lyfe and disposytyon of those yt withdrawe from their dutye herin, with ye unlawfull traffick yt they use, yt, when



they com beffore Your Lordship you may know theme all pertyclerly, and even object to theme their own secretts and unworthynes, more worthy to be ponysshed and they banished then to receive ani grett cheryssheng here. The wryting is (though yndystynctly wrytten, with lyttell good ortograppe in it), yett playn inowgh to decepher these lowse fellowes unto Your Lordship and mete yt you sholld know theme as they be, to which end I send it humbly to Your Lordship, so required by Svigo to do on his behallf. He tells me a thing yt I dere nott beleve, bothe for yt I judge ye party discrete and honest and of a good duty to Your Lordship, and partly for yt there hath byn som stomaking bettween Acerbo and him for ffavoryng of on Dyogenes, in a matter of coryntes, and therefore ye repport is ye more partyall, yt is yt M<sup>r</sup> Baptist, of ye pryvey chamber, is a secrett ffavorer of these supplycatyons ageynst Your Lordship and a furtherer of them to ye Queen's Majesti, and yt there hathe byn secrett metyngs bettween these Italyens and him, yt he dare note avowe, which Your Lordship is to judge of, accordyng to your own wisdom.

Lastly I have enclosed herewith ye cotype of a letter yt I wrytt unto M<sup>r</sup> Edward Chester in Holland by commandement secrettly of Her Majesti and M<sup>r</sup> Secretary in august laste, when Your Lordship relesed a hoye uppon my motyon purposely to yt end. Which letter conteynes allso in substance ye purpost of yt which I wrytt att yt instant to ye Prince of Orenge and to Pawll Buis, wherof, bycause I have hard of som misconstrewyng of me negocyatyon therin and wrong rapports of my delyng, as though I went abowtt to seperate Holland from Zeland and to dele yndyrectly bothe here and there, ytt may plesse Your Lordship to be judge therof and to be wyttnes of ye humble syncerenes yt I have allwayes used in this actyon, which shall satisfye me more than ye gayne of ani wordly goods besyde.

And ffor ass muche as it pleseth ye Queene's Majesti to countenew me now as her servant, and gives me accesse to com unto her sellf, as often as I shall desire it, with a commandement to write unto her own person, as occasyon is mynistred, I do beseche Your Lordship, from whom all mi cowntenance and prefferment is deryved, to contynew your good oppynyon therof, and to vowchesave allso suche encesse of favor towards me, as so humble and faythfull a devotyon as myne is to Your Lordships may most humbly intreatt and deserve, wherwith, praying for your honorable hellthe, I take mi leve.

In haste, ye 18 of october, at 9 of ye clocke att night, 1576.

(Archives d'Hatfield, Cecil-papers.)

## MMMCCXVII.

*Instructions données au Docteur Wilson.*

(22 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Il s'adressera successivement au duc d'Archoth et à Roda. — Au premier il demandera des explications sur le mouvement qui a éclaté à Bruxelles; il déclarera au second que la reine ne s'associera à aucune tentative qui aurait pour but de prononcer la déchéance du roi d'Espagne. — Il conviendra de recueillir autant de renseignements que cela sera possible sur les troubles actuels des Pays-Bas.

*Instructions given to M<sup>r</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Wilson sent into the Lowe-Countries to ye States there the xxij<sup>th</sup> of october 1576.*

For as much as we finde yt verie necessarie in the present troublesome and broken state of the Lowe-Countries to be truelie informed of ye course and manner of their proceedings, for that divers, vaine and uncertaine bruits are given out in that behalf, we have therefore made an especiall choice of you to use your service therin <sup>1</sup>.

And that you may with the better cullour both repaire thither and remaine there untill such tyme as we shall revoke you, we have thought yt meete that you adresse

<sup>1</sup> Il faut citer, relativement à la mission du docteur Wilson, la lettre suivante de Walsingham à Burleigh :

My verry good Lord, Her Majesty begynnethe nowe to waver in her determynatyon of sendyng over into the Lowe-Countryes M<sup>r</sup> D. Wylson and hath ordred yt I shoold wyll him to staye his preparatyon. I knowe no other cause of his alteratyon but only the ordenary cause, which is the respect of charges. The evenyng Your Lordship departed hence, I had longe taulke with Her Majeste, towching the points wherin she broke with Your Lordship before your departure. I fownde her verry well caulmed by Your Lordships persuasyons and wyllyng ynowghe to hewe what I could saye. Emongest other informatyons ageynst me, I gathered by her speache that some have gon abowt to perswade her that the arrest of the Merchaunt Adventurers shippes made by the Prince of Orange grewe by advyce geven by me, wherin I protest before God I am as innocent hereof as Gwerras; for, as I never gave the advyce, so dyd I never allowe of the fact. Yf the advyce of others abowt her unto other forreyn prynees yt arc her ennemyes, doe her as more harme then the advyce I geve the Prince, Her Majeste shall lyve longe in repose. Thus Your Lordship seethe yt, as I am your successor in place, so am I of the harde hap you had to be subject to malycyows and slaunderowse reportes. The assurance of Gods protection and my owne innocensye shall, I dowbt not, delyver me from the forces of ther mallyce, yt ar awthors of thes reportes.

I dowbt greatly that Giraldy before his departure will growe to no conclusyon in this matter of

your self at your arrivall there unto the Duke of Arschott and to such others as are appointed by the States of the provinces of those countries and using the Kings name and authoritie have taken upon them the present gouvernement there, whom you shall let to understand that we, being informed by common bruit of the late arrest of the greatest number of the King our good brother's Counsell, of which number some remayne as yet in prison, and that the castle of Gaunt, being kept by a garrison of Spaniards placed by the King, should be besieged, as also that he the said Duke, in whom the King had reposed (since the death of ye Commendador) the chiefest trust for the direction of yt gouvernement, should be joyned with those that were noted to be the principall doers and executors of the late proceedings, have therefore sente youe unto him and to the rest of his associates to knowe of them the true cause of this manner and course of proceeding : wherein you may shew them that we hope that, as they have alwaies heretofore shewed themselves good and faithfull subjects towards the King their soverayne, our good brother, so they can now render such accompts of theis their late doings as may stand with their dutie and honour; for we cannot be perswaded howsoever they shall be carried with an affection to maintaine and preserve the liberties of their countrie, that they will so farr forgett themselves as to faile of their loyaltie towards the said King, their master. And hereupon, yf they shall (as yt is most like they will) take occasion to make protestation unto you for our satisfaction and their own justification of their sincere meaning and the contynuaunce of the loyaltie and devotion towards the King their soverayne, you shall then let them understand and knowe that, as we have ever greatlie desired the pacification of the troubles in those countries, and have to that purpose (as they are not ignorant) offered unto the King, our good brother, as well by expresse messengers sente unto him and to the Commendador in his lief tyme, as also to the Counsel of State since the said Commendador's death, to imploy ourself to ye uttermost of our power for the appeaching of ye said troubles, so we, contynuing still in the same good affection, can be contente yf we might know from them how we might doe good to be a dealer therein.

You shall also let him understand, as a principall parte of your chardge, that we, fore-

treatye. His irresolution therein growethe for lacke of judgement. His secretar ye hathe not yet ben here.

Powells sute is not yet past, and therefore I wyll eyther procure the paye thereof, or that the portyon of lande to the sale wherof Her Majestie hathe yelded her consent, may be qualefyed.

Yesternight in taulke with Her Majestie I shewed her yt I thought yt would be mondaye before you could returne hether, unless she shoold otherwise dyspose of you, wherunto, for that she made no reple, I thinke her sylence may be helde for a kynde of consent. And so leaving further to trouble Your Lordship at this present, I most humbly take my leave.

At Hamptoncoorte, the xvi<sup>th</sup> of october 1576.

(*British Museum, Harley, 6992, fol. 56*)

seeing how harde yt will be in the tyme of their troubles for such of our subjects, as resorte thither for trafique sake, to contynue their trade there without danger of being spoiled or otherwise outraged, would be glad therefore to knowe of them what assurance they can give us that they may trafique there with good savetie for themselves and their goods, for that otherwise we shall be driven to restraine them from resorting thither untill the said troubles be appeased in respect of ye perill that may befall unto them by the maintenance of the said trafique there. And for that the spanish partie there and their adherents may make some other construction of our sending thither than agreeth with our sinceare and honorable meaning, we thinke yt verie convenient that you should doe you indeavour to procure that you may have accesse unto Rhoda who, as we are informed, is the principall man of ye spanish nation in respecte of his calling, having latelie supplied the place of the Presidentshipp of the Privie Counsell, that nowe remayneth in those Lowe-Countries for the King, where you shall let to understand that, whatsoever others that are maliciouslie affected and would be glad to nourish a jealousie betwene the King, our good brother, his master, and us, may geve out, the cause of our sending of you thither at this present is to noe other purpose but : first, to discover whether th'end of the late proceedings by the States in those countries tendeth to the withdrawing of their obedience from the King his master their naturall prince and soverayne, and to throwe themselves, either into the protection of some forraine prince or otherwise to alien themselves from his government, wherin you may assure him that, if he can make yt probablie appeare unto you that they should have anie such intention or meaning, we will imploy all the forces we have in opposing ourselves there unto;

Secondlie, that in case you shall finde that they have noe such undutifull or disloyal meaning, but doe onlie stand upon the maintenaunce of their priveledges, that then our pleasure was that you should signifie unto them that, as heretofore we have bene greatlie desirous by way of mediation to compoude ye differences betwene the said King and such other his provinces, as had withdrawen themselves from his obedience, so can we be contente to imploye ourselves now in the compounding of these newe troubles, in case either the said Estates or he can thinke that our mediation in that behalf may prevaile to worke that good that we desire, and may be also to the good liking and allowance of the King his master our good brother ;

Lastlie, that we, doubting howe our merchants during the troubles there may continewe their trade, have geven you in chardge to knowe of them what assurance they will give for their suertie : this is, you may assure him, the substance of your message and th'end of our sending of you thither at this present, wherof you shall desire him in our name to advertise his master.

And, in case that it shall so fall out that you cannot have accesse unto him, then would

we have you either make him understand as much by letter, or ells to imparte the same unto Julian Romero or some other of that nation for his judgment and calling fit to be made acquainted with such a matter, that our honorable intention and ye sincerity of our meaning may neither be mistaken, nor maliciously interpreted.

And, because we may be the better able to judge of their doings there, we thinke yt verie convenient during the tyme of your abode in those parts that you doe your indeavour to informe us particularlie of the points following : as first whether the late arrest of the Kings Privie Counsell at Bruxells was done by a generall assent of the States of Brabant or not, and whether the States of ye rest of the provinces, as of Flaunder, Hainolt, etc., were acquainted withall, or have since agreed therunto, as also which of the nobilitie of those countries gave their assent thereunto before ye execution thereof, or doe now allowe thereof ; what were the causes that moved them to proceede to the said arrest, whether there be not some of ye said States and nobilitie that mislike therof, to what end this kinde of proceeding tendeth, whether they have any intention to alter the forme of governement there by raising newe governement amongst themselves or dismembring the provinces, or ells by yealding themselves into the handes and protection of some forraine princee ; what intelligence the Prince of Aurange hath with them, and whether he was privie to the said arrest before execution therof, whether the ambassadour there resident for the French King was any waie acquainted with the matter, and whether he be any way a dealer with the said States either under hand or otherwise ; which of the provinces of the said Lowe-Countries doe stand with the Spaniards ; what townes they have in their possession and whether any of the nobilitie doe joyne with them, what forces either partie hath presently and whether they looke for any forraine forces oute of France, Germanie or elsewhere ; and lastlie what in the opinion of men of discourse and judgment will be the end of the present troubles of those countries.

Of theis particular pointes we loke to receive your severall answers according to such informacion as you can by any meanes procure during the tyme of your aboade therein, as also of all other things that shall fall out there fit for our knowledg.

And for that we knowe yt to be verie harde in the broken state of that countrie preciselie to set downe, either what speaches you are to use, or with what persons you are to deale, we thinke yt meete to referre the same to your owne discretion and judgment as one whom we doe assure ourselves will have due regarde to our honor and the furtherance of our service.

(*British Museum, Lansdowne, 155, n° 67.*)

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MMMCCXVIII.

*Le Ministre Villiers à Walsingham.*

(MIDDELBOURG, 28 OCTOBRE 1576.)

Nouvelles diverses.

Monseigneur, D'autant que j'ai esté pris de court, aussi je vous supplie de vous contenter d'une briefve lettre, combien que je vous pourrai escrire plus au long et mon jugement de plusieurs choses. L'empereur est mort le 12<sup>e</sup> du présent; cela n'amènera rien de mal en ce païs, car desjà il avoit ordonné des ambassadeurs qui n'eussent rien faict qui vaille. Les Espaignols ont pris Maestrich et ont taillé en pièces les bourgeois, et puis ont envoyé en Allemagne faire levée; ils estoient en delibération de retirer trois enseignes d'Espaignols qui estoient en la petite ville, comme nous avons veu par lettres de Roda au Roi d'Espagne. Ils abandonnent tout, fors qu'Anvers, Lire et Maestrich, où ils attendront la venue de Jean d'Austria; ils n'ont pas beaucoup de ceulx du païs à leur dévotion, sinon en Phriese qu'ils tiennent encores; mais les Allemands *sunt dubie fidei*, comme ils l'ont montré à Maestrich, et ne failliront de tourner avecq Don Juan à son arrivée; ce pendant ils sont logés ès meilleures villes. Nous sommes près pour faire entendre aux Estats qu'ils les doivent contraindre de parler clair. Don Julian a desfaict quelques enseignes walones qui gardoient le pont de Wallen. Toutesfois les Espaignols ont quitté Alost, mais il i a long tems que Roda les en pressoit: ce qu'ils ne vouloient faire sans argent. Leur intention est de venir lever le siège de Gand, après qu'ils se seront joinets en Anvers: ce qu'ils eussent faict pièce sans ce discord. Les députés sont encores ensemble arrestés sur deux poinets: ceulx de delà demandans que la messe soit remise en ce païs, les nostres que toutes choses demeurent en estat, attendant les Estats-générauls, après avoir chassé l'Espaignol; l'autre est que les nostres demandent que les Estats déclarent que, venant Don Juan fort ou foible, il ne sera receu, ains déclaré rebelle comme les aultres: là dessus deux sont allés à Bruxelles. Le secours de Monsieur d'Allencon est révoqué en doubte, auleuns le voullants, les aultres non. Je pense qu'il viendra des Francois à la fille, comme desjà plusieurs se sont jettés parmi les Espaignols; mais j'estime qu'ils ne viendront en troppe, si la nécessité n'est plus grande, pour beaucoup de raisons que je ne puis à présent desduire. J'ai envoyé en Anvers à la compagnie des Marchants un passeport général pour eux, leurs familles et hardes, et, quant à leur marchandise, je leur mande que Son Excellence m'a assuré qu'il la lairra passer en paiant par forme d'assurance au prix de trois pour cent. Quelques meubles sont

desjà arrivés. Je désireroi bien de peur d'inconvénient que cella fust faict bien tost; car, si je me retire je crain leurs enemis, car ils n'ont guères d'amis en ce país: le meilleur qu'ils ont est Son Excellence. Que si je ne me fusse trouvé à toutes heures à la chambre du Conseil, tellement que ceulx qui parloient contre eux, ne le pouvoient faire que je ne leur respondisse, on leur en eust presté de bonnes. Nous ne pouvons retirer la marchandise d'Ipswich que par appointment tel que je vous ai mandé. Toutesfois je ferai que les Marchants auront obligation de leur somme. Au moins j'en ai espérance, tellement que toute la perte avecq le tems tumbera sur les Estats, qui paieront les cappitaines.

Je prie Dieu, Monseigneur, qu'il vous tienne soubs sa garde.

A Middelbourg, ce 28 octobre 1576.

(Record office, Cal., n° 985.)

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MMMCCXIX.

*Note relative aux négociations avec le prince d'Orange.*

(NOVEMBRE 1576?)

Le prince d'Orange aura à offrir à la reine telle satisfaction qu'elle jugera suffisante.

*Howe the matter may be compownded by Her Majesty and the Prince of Orange.*

The waye to compownde the matter standethe uppon two poyntes: the fyrste what satysfacyon may be yelded by the Prince to Her Majestie's contentement; the seconde howe the Prince, in resoun of some favor to proceade for Her Majesty towards him, may be indused to yeelde the sayd satysfacyon.

The satysfacyon that may breade contentement, restethe uppon thre poyntes: the fyrst to acknowlege his error in arrestyng Her Majestie's subjectes; the seconde to restore to lybertye her subjectes nowe stayed in Zelande; the thirde to suffre her subjectes to traffyque freely unspoyled.

The favor that is to be shewed by Her Majesty, restethe uppon thes poyntes: fyrst in remyttng that which is past; secondaryly in releasyng the shippes stayed; thirdely in not urging her subjectes traffyque into the Lowe-Countrys; fowrthely in suffering them to have the use of owre portes and to be releaved ther of vyctuals for ther money.

(Record office, Cal., n° 1042.)

MMMCCXX.

*Georges Southaicke à Walsingham.*

(NOVEMBRE 1576?)

Envoi d'un mémoire où se trouvent exposés les moyens de sauvegarder les intérêts des marchands anglais sans nuire à ceux de la Hollande et de la Zélande.

Humble complayning sheweth to Your Honour your obedient suppliante George Sowthacke, citizen and marchaunte of London, having delivered Your Honour's letter unto the deputie of the Prince of Orringe, subscribed by divers of Her Majestie's most honorable Privie Counsaile, in the fayvour of your suppliante to graunte unto him such lyssancis, passportes and assewrauncis as mighte sattysfie the eighteen hundreth powndes starlinge which they of Zellande had of him, who cannot yet com to no order, nor offer at there handes, yet he hath devyssed suche a good waye and meanes as wold sowne contente his somma : which wold not only yeld yerelie a great commoditie unto them of Hollande and Zellande, but also asayftie for all Her Majestie's subjectes, that travells at the sees, dewring this tyme of troubles, whiche thing will avoyde all complaints that of late Your Honour hath byn much trobled with all, and cannot be to the dislicking of the saide deputies for the Prince, yf they be willing to sattisfie your suppliante and to spare the saide subjeetes of Her Majesti at the sees from the spoyle of those of Zellande, which devices your said suppliant hath been bowlde, under Your Honour's correction, to exebit and sende here with, which thinge, yf it maye stand, with Your Honour's good lieking, to appoynt somm further conference with the deputis for those of Hollande and Zellande in the premissis, or ells to lyssens your said suppliante to put Her Majestie's commission in execution, according to the tenor thereof, which your suppliante dares not procur to have done without Your Honor's pleasur therin to be knowne. And your saide poore suppliante shall daylie praye for the preservation of Your Honour.

(Record office, Cal., n° 1040.)

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MMMCCXXI.

*Mémoire adressé à Walsingham et au Conseil privé  
par Georges Southaicke.*

(NOVEMBRE 1576?)

Les marins de Flessingue s'engageraient à n'entraver en aucune manière le commerce des marchands anglais qui leur paieraient une assurance. — Il en résulterait pour eux un profit d'environ six mille livres. — D'autre part, la reprise des relations commerciales assurerait à la reine un droit de douane de deux ou trois mille livres en sus de ce qu'on perçoit actuellement. — Extension que recevrait le commerce. — Les marchands anglais seuls jouiraient de ce privilège. — Ruine de tous les marchands étrangers. — Si ce moyen n'était pas admis, la reine se verrait obligée d'entretenir constamment en mer des navires armés pour protéger les marchands anglais.

Assewrauncis to be maide and taken by somm one, two or three of creditt, speciallie there unto actorized and appoynted in London by the Prince of Orringe and the Staytes and Counsell of Hollande and Zellande, for to assewre all englishe marchauntes' goodes from the spoyle of those of Zellande, gevinge after foure, five or six pownde of the hundreth powndes worthe in marchandize, will not onely rayes great somes of monneys per yere, but also be a moste sayfe and ready waye for the marchauntes to pase to and from all placies at the sees, and avoyde a number of trobles and complayntes which comes daily before Your Honnor.

For all other marchauntes straungers, papistes and enemies to there cawses, to lye opyne still for those of Zellande to make ther praye uppon for the mayntenauncis of ther one cawses, Her Majestie's owne subjectes beinge sallie provided for, by geving of a smale portion to be assewred of ther goodes, which your saide marchauntes had wonte to geve to assewre there goodes in the moste quiett and pessable tymes, and therfore wold nowe dewring thes trobles geve willinglie doble the somes to go sayflie and in quiett.

Item to assewre alle the marchauntes goodes of Englande, owtwardes and home agayne, to go sayfe, by those of Zellande at the sees, which the englishe marchauntes wold most willingly geve, maye amownte unto by the yeere, dewring thes trobles, vi<sup>m</sup> poundes.

The marchaunt of Englande hath no discommoditie therby at alle, for he will rayes his sewraunce money upon the sayle of his commoditis which he did assewre.

Her Majestie hath hereby a greate commoditie, for it will so muche advance the

traydes of marchandize owt and into this Her Majestie's realme, as will yelde by yeere two or three thowsande powndes in custome, mour then is now at this presente daye, because marchantes ar in feare to occupie as they have done.

This will also make suche increcis of marynners and of good marchauntes' shippes within two or three yeeres, to the great advancemente of the navegation of Englande.

By this meanes the most parte of all traides will falle into the handlinge of the marchauntes subjectes of Her Majestie to the greate benyfit of this common weale.

All other marchauntes strangers wilbe dailie interseptid and taken by those of Zelande to thyre utter inpoovershment and undoing, and, in prosses of tyme, shalbe constrained to leave there traydes at the sees, which wilbe the overthrowe of there navegation and dekaye of ther marrynners, yf these civill warres betwene the King of Spayne and the Prince of Orringe do continewe, to the greate inrichinge of Her Majestie's realme of Englande and to the inpoovershinge of alle other nations, yf tyme be recainde when it is offered.

Yf this manner of order for assewrance had byn taken in hande three yeeres past with the consente of the Prince of Orringe and the States of Holland and Zelande and Counsell of the same, wold asayved the marchauntes and marrynners of Englande one hundreth thowsand powndes starling, ye to the utter undoing of a nomber, ther wyves and children. Yf some spedie remedye be not provided in tyme, no marchaunte, nor marryner shalbe able to go to the sees, but shalbe spoyled or lowse alle they have, unless Her Majestie wolde be at the charge to kepe five or six of Her Graci's shippes continue wallie at the sees for the sayftie of her marchauntes.

(*Record office, Cal., n° 1041.*)



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