

122. The GOVERNOR (Thomas Heton) and the ASSISTANTS of the COMPANY OF MERCHANT ADVENTURERS to the PRINCE [OF ORANGE].

1573, April 15.—Inasmuch as a treaty has been recently concluded between the Queen [of England] and the King of Spain to restore to its former liberty the traffic of merchandise in their countries, the writers are desirous to acquaint his Excellency with the same, especially as it would be insupportable for the inhabitants of Holland and Zeeland to have free access to this kingdom on this account, and the other subjects of the said King to be hindered. They think that so far as these negotiations concern the Low Countries, they should be carried out by those who are privileged for the same, these being the Merchant Adventurers and those of the Staple of Wools alone. They have decided to send to the merchants of Flushing two of their company, viz., Richard Goddard and George Southait (Southey) to deliver orders in this matter. Are well assured that his Excellency and those of Flushing will freely allow the company to pass and repass. The bearer of this, William de Nieveult, will further declare their intentions. They beseech the Prince to write to those of Flushing, so that there may be no restriction of the liberty so necessary for those of Holland and Zeeland.

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