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wise the burgesses will suffer him to go to Antwerp for fear of usurpation. The Spaniards were in Burgundy the 19th of May; it is thought they hover there for some purpose, and that they have *animus revertendi*, and want but occasion; yea, some think that if Don John could get clearly away he would rather be in Luxembourg than Brussels. Here is great want of money, and divers devices used to get it. There is a request made to the Estates that every man may be assessed according to his degree and by the poll, but they will know the minds of particular towns and countries before they will resolve upon such a taxation. Gives particulars of various enclosures. The chiefest man that utters the secrets against the Estates is Arschot, who for that he cannot be employed as one of the Council as heretofore he has been, discovers many men's doings, and sets a pique amongst them. Champagne joins with them that are thought to be the best patriots, as Count Lalain and M. de Heze, against the house of Croy, so that he may see all things are not here yet perfectly quiet.

-Brussels, 8 June 1577. *Signed.*

*Add., with seal. Endd. Pp. 6½.*

May 15. 1458.

*Instructions of Don John to the Duke of Arschot and others sent to the Prince of Orange and the States of Holland and Zealand.*

1. They are to inform them of the pacification concluded at Ghent, of the departure of the Spaniards and of his acceptance of the government, and of the desire that he and the King of Spain have to perform the pacification and to bring quiet to the country. They are then to desire that the said pacification be published in Holland and Zealand, and then that nothing be done contrary thereto. That the proceedings against Amsterdam, Utrecht, and other places cease, so that they be no longer molested nor their commerce hindered. Whereas the Prince seeks to obtain the government of Utrecht, alleging it to be united to Holland, they are to argue to the contrary by the allegations and reasons with which they shall be more amply instructed, and state his willingness to submit this and other disputed points to commissioners to determine. That the fortifications begun and continued at Haarlem, Amsterdam, and other places may cease and the country delivered from the expense of their erection. They are to complain that certain of his agents seek to distract Friesland, Gueldres, Overysse, Groningen, and other places from the King's obedience by the preaching of Calvinistic and Anabaptistic doctrines, and that notwithstanding the contract made by them with the burgesses of Zericksee to permit them the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, yet that they endeavour to force them to follow their own new fashion. Further, that they recast a great part of the King of Spain's ordnance and place thereon the cognisance of the Prince of Orange. The officers of the Prince of Orange refuse to execute the decrees of the King's

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officers of justice whereby the suitors are forced to begin their causes over again to their great inconvenience and cost. That whereas he has restored according to the treaty the confiscated lands and goods in his hands, yet there is no like performance on the part of the States of Holland and Zealand. If the Prince should speak to them of Breda, they are to say that there is no difficulty in restoring it to him, to hold as the King's vassal, but as Breda is close to Gertruydenburg which is occupied by his force, the soldiers will not leave it till arms be laid down throughout the country, and as for his estates in Burgundy and Luxembourg, though they are not comprised in the agreement, yet he may look for contentment at the hands of the King. They are also to assist the deputies of the Estates who are going to the Prince of Orange and the States of Holland and Zealand to complain of the new impositions on merchandise in those countries.—Brussels, 15 May 1577.

2. Having had his attention called to a placard issued by the Prince of Orange in the name of the King of Spain announcing the sale of the property of the Roman Catholic clergy and religious houses in Holland and Zealand, and the proceeds of which he and the States of Holland and Zealand intend to use in the service of their own faith, he commands them to protest against it, as directly against the pacification, and as tending to cause further inconvenience, and therefore to command that the said placard be instantly revoked. *Signed by order of his Highness.*—Berthy.

*Copy. Endd. Fr. Pp. 5½. Enclosure.*

May 23. 1459. *Propositions of the Deputies of the Estates of the Low Countries to the Prince of Orange and the Estates of Holland and Zealand.*

They call their attention to the chief points in the foregoing document, and express a hope that matters may be brought to a satisfactory accord.—Gertruidenburg, 23 May 1577.

*2 Endds. Fr. Copy. Pp. 3. Enclosure.*

June 1. 1460. *The Prince of Orange to Dr. Wilson.*

Desires to know the opinion of the Queen on the points sent by Mr. Rogers, so that he may know how to conduct himself with the deputies of Don John of Austria.—Dortrecht, 1 June 1577. *Signed.*

*Add. Endd. Fr. P. ¼. Enclosure.*

May 16. 1461. *Don John of Austria to the Prince of Orange.*

A letter of compliment in which he tells him that his greatest desire is to bring peace and prosperity to the Low Countries, but this in a great measure depends on the Prince, and therefore he desires that he will give a favourable consideration to that which the Duke of Arschot is charged with on his behalf.—Brussels, 10 May 1577.—*Signed.*

*Endd. as "escrite de sa main propre." Span. Pp. 1½. Enclosure.*