

A.D. 1577.

June 19. 1480. WILLIAM MELVILL to DAVISON.

1. It will please him to excuse the Prince towards himself and others that he writes not so often as may be looked for; partly his affairs are not small, partly his nature, which is nothing ceremonious, are stay to such declarations of his goodwill. Presently he is of good health, and better than when the ambassador did leave him, and still more and more favoured of his country, which is testified not only by the present they gave his daughter at her baptism, in granting to her and her heirs 2,000 guilders yearly, but also in divers banquettings in his passing through the country. They will stick the faster by him the more they perceive the contentions of the others, who have not only chased some of the religion out of divers places, but also have made at Mechlin, Don John being present, open execution of one that had been at the preaching since the Edict of Pacification. They of Brussels are like to be some bridle to the others, who not only after the old manner are prompt to defend their liberty, but also bear great affection to the Prince of Orange.—Delft, 19 June 1577.
Signed.

2. P.S.—As for the treaty between him and the Duke of Arschot and others, nothing was done, and no answer as yet given to his demands. They of Utrecht are well affectioned, and if they come in, Amsterdam will be compelled to do what the States of Holland will.

Add. Endd. P. 1.

June 20. 1481. The PRINCE OF ORANGE to the ESTATES of the LOW COUNTRIES.

Every one can see that the pacification of Ghent of the 8th November 1576 has not been a sovereign remedy for the evils under which they suffer, and can testify to the devotion with which he and the States of Holland and Zealand have devoted their lands, goods, and lives to the honour and service of their country. There are certain who never desired the peace of their country, but sought only their own profit, and wish therefore to renew the dissensions. They can see how well the pacification has been kept; the strangers who were declared to be the greatest enemies of the country have not been sent forth, exiles have not been allowed to return, nor has restitution been made of goods and ancient privileges. They had the admiration of all the world for their heroism and magnanimity, but that will now be changed to derision when they are seen placing themselves under the yoke of a greater tyranny than they endured at first, and the only way to prevent this is by obtaining a true performance of the pacification. Assures them that with regard to the rumour as to their proceedings against Amsterdam, they have no desire but to treat that town on an equality with the rest of Holland, when they shall lay down their arms.—Haarlem, 20 June. *Signed.*

Endd. by Wilson. Fr. Copy. Pp. 5.