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strangely agreed on by the States. Never saw so little rejoicing for a peace, and the reason is that some do not like these proceedings, because they tend to the destruction of the Prince and the ruin of religion, and others think there is no peace at all until the Spaniards be clean rid out of the country. This is called the Duke of Arschot's peace, whose soft and fearful nature has yielded to all things, and the rather to keep out the Prince of Orange from the government here. Has written to the burgomasters of Nieuport for the enlargement of Sypson. The Duke of Arschot goes on Tuesday next towards Namur to bring Don John to Louvain. The French Ambassador goes with him, in whose train he has sent Mr. Fremin. The rebels swarm about Don John, being come to him of late, the lewd Earl, Stuckley the Romanist, and Jenye who was at Milan, besides the whole rabble of the rest. Has given bills to the Council of State for their banishment, and they have promised to deal earnestly with Don John. The Bishop of Liège has promised that none shall rest where he has government. It is said that the Prince is in possession of Amsterdam.—Brussels, 19 Feb. 1577. *Signed.*

Add. Endd., with seal. Pp. 1½.

Feb. 19. 1283. *The Prince of Orange and the States of Holland and Zealand to the States General.*

In reply to their request for their opinion on the conclusion of the Edict of Pacification with Don John, they cannot but approve of their zeal in endeavouring to obtain restoration of peace and tranquility to their afflicted country, but considering the articles separately they are not so well satisfied, as their ancient rights and privileges and the release of the Count of Buren do not seem so well provided for as they might be, and are contrary to the pacification of Ghent. Also the approbation to them is not given simply and categorically, but is subject to an infinity of cavillations similar to those which, since the time of Madame de Parma, have led to a horrible effusion of blood. They further find some points most prejudicial to the honour and reputation of the country, as they are entering into a composition with those whom they have declared to be scoundrels (schelms), villains, and rebels, and who have leagued and plotted with the Spaniards. Besides, the Queen of England and Monseigneur, who have behaved so well to them in their trouble, should have received more express and honourable mention than they have done. Also they do not find in the said articles that any assurance is provided for the inhabitants of Holland and Zealand, as was done in the treaty at Breda and that of Ghent. Neither is there any mention of restoring individuals to the enjoyment of their properties and offices, either in the Low Countries or in the Franche Comté of Burgundy. There is no mention of the demolition of the citadels and castles which have been the cause of infinite woes, which matter cannot but be suspected

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by the people, so lately threatened at Hoyer, who certainly ought to be well assured for the future, when they will be disarmed, and Don John will be governor of the country. Express their surprise at the suddenness of this understanding with Don John, especially after all the communications that have passed between them. As, however, it is no use to debate about matters already concluded, they promise that for their part they will observe the terms of the pacification of Ghent, and trust that they are ready to do the same. Will agree to the present accord providing that the States General will give a solemn promise that in the event of the Spaniards not withdrawing at the time appointed they will break off all further negotiations with Don John and proceed to drive them out by force of arms, and that they will not recognise Don John or any one else for governor until all points that may be prejudicial to the stipulations of the Pacification of Ghent may be satisfied.—Middleburg, 19 Feb. 1577.

Copy. Endd. Enclosure. Fr. Pp. 54.

Feb. 1284. *The Prince of Orange to Dr. Wilson.*

Thanks him for his advertisement of what has passed in England between M. de Gastle and certain English captains, and also for his advice concerning the pacification with Don John, which entirely agrees with the resolution that they have already come to, a copy of which he encloses, by which he may see that his sole intention is to procure the deliverance of this country from oppression. Trusts that the Queen will assist their just cause, seeing that in their preservation rests the assured peace of England.—Middleburg, Feb. 1577.
Signed.

Add. Endd.: Rece'd 24 Feb. Enclosure. Fr. P. 1.

Feb. 22. 1285. **PROCLAMATION of the KING OF FRANCE calling out the GENDARMERIE.**

Fourteen companies are to assemble at Poitiers under himself on the 25th March to march to Guienne, and on the same day and at the same place nine companies under the Count de Ludde for service in Poitou. On the 25th March, at Bordeaux, under the Marquis de Villars, Admiral of France, 23 companies at Bordeaux for such service as they shall be required. On the 20th March, in Gien-sur-Loire, 18 companies under the Duke of Anjou. On the 25th March, at Vallence, in Dauphiny, under the Sieur de Gordes, lieutenant-general of the province, 16 companies for such service as they shall be required. On the 25th March, at Carcassonne, under the Sieur de Joyeuse, lieutenant-general in Languedoc, five companies for such service as they shall be required. For service in Burgundy and Champagne, under the Duke of Guise, when they shall be called upon, 28 companies are to be in readiness. Other companies are to repair on the 25th March to the governments of Picardy, Normandy, Brittany, Haut Auvergne, Bas Auvergne, Limousin, and Angoumois.