

A.D. 1577.

June 27. 15. M. DE SWEVEGHEM to WILSON.

K. d. L. ix.
372.

I have received your letters, in three languages, of yesterday and the day before, asking me to secure the repayment of the Queen's loan. I did what I could before leaving Brussels, and am still doing all I can. To impress upon the Deputies of the States-General how much they owe to her Majesty for coming so liberally to their assistance I have sent your letters to them. If they fail to pay I think they will shorten my life by reason of the discredit it will do me with a princess who has been good to me. This I trust you will let her know, that she may hold me blameless.

"Quinimo, quod unum possum, opportune, importune institi et instabo apud Ordines ut fidem meam ipsorum jussu Serenissimæ Reginae obstrictam liberent; neque dubito quin facturi sint. Vale quam rectissime, clarissime domine orator, mei memor."—Lichter-velde, 27 June 1577. (*Signed.*) François de Halewyn.

P.S.—As you like French verses, I send you a sonnet on the peace, which has just reached me. If you think it good enough, show it to our common friends.

Add. Endd. by Wilson. Fr. 1½ pp. Enclosure in Wilson's of July 7. [Holl. and Fland. I. 9.]

July 5. 16. The PRINCE OF ORANGE to the ESTATES.

There is none of you but must see that the pacification of Ghent was the sole and sovereign remedy for the calamities into which our country had been brought, that it has in some measure turned aside the yoke of the foreign tyranny which it was sought to impose on us and our children for ever.

Equally well known to all is the way in which I have freely risked my friends, my goods, or my life, as well as the promptitude and good faith with which the Estates of Holland and Zealand have laboured in the cause, having with their own bodies, lives, and means built the bridge by which such great benefits have been reached.

Nevertheless, since by means of sinister practices, other persons, ill-disposed toward the country, and wishing only to arrive at a high position by its ruin, are trying to revive the former dissensions, the benefits we have received from the favour of God may soon be forgotten.

Thus my duty to the country and my desire to serve you, bid me pray and exhort you seriously that if all else is disregarded and forgotten, you will continually keep before your eyes the benefits which the country has received by the pacification, and thus understand, what is the truth, that as the hope which each one has conceived of seeing the country re-established in peace and prosperity commenced with it, so the only way of bringing that commencement to a good issue is the entire and complete observation of its terms.

A.D. 1577.

This is why I pray you to see to it that the pacification may in the end be thoroughly carried out. Up to now, it looks as if we held only the shadow and the appearance of it, not the truth and the body; wherefore we are deprived of the principal fruit of it, namely a firm conjunction and sincere amity with an assured confidence on your part toward the others. At the present time, as we have more fully pointed out to M. van Grobbendonck and Dr. Leoninus your deputies, we see neither goods restored, nor the governors reunited, nor the foreigners who declared themselves the greatest enemies of the country, and pillaged and sacked the goods of its inhabitants, withdrawn, nor prisoners set at liberty, nor exiles allowed to return, nor ancient privileges restored. It seems even that new practices are on foot, and that the authority of the Estates is being trampled on, while those who are the cause of the same are replaced in credit; nay, that an attempt is even being made to put in full force again the placard about the exercise of the Religion, by setting up again the scaffolds to tyrannize over men's consciences, and thus make the dissensions which have led to all our calamities spring up again. If you consider these things you will easily judge of their ill effects, which it is to be feared, if you do not take order for the real accomplishment of the pacification, will land us in a worse place than we were in before.

Besides this, you will lose the reputation that you have acquired among foreign nations by your heroism when they see you leave incomplete a business so important to your welfare, and open the door to those who will assuredly take vengeance on you and reduce you to a more intolerable subjection than ever. They will think that what you have done up to now was more the result of groundless impatience, than of a fixed purpose and magnanimous resolution, and the benevolence they have shown you will turn to hatred and contempt. This you can avoid by getting the pacification thoroughly carried into effect, which I expect you most seriously to do.

I must not omit to tell you that we have been informed that some of our ill-wishers have spread a report that we were levying war against those of Amsterdam, or treating them with hostility, whereas we admit them freely, neither more nor less than other inhabitants of Holland, although when our people go to their town, they make them lay aside their arms. They are even treating of satisfaction. We have granted them all that they could have on condition that they would unite with those of Holland, in arranging their general charges and imposts, and leave off all forms of hostility as by the pacification they are bound to do; which was the principal reason, why the article as to satisfaction was inserted in that treaty. If they show themselves to what is so equitable, they let it be seen that they have no great desire to maintain the peace of the country, as MM. Grobbendonck and Leoninus and other gentlemen sent by his Highness may have seen and recognized. Of this I have thought good to warn you, that you take order for the peace and repose of the country.

Enclosure. Copy. Endd. Fr. 2 pp. [Holl. and Fland. I. 10.]