

A.D. 1578.

May 21. 897. COUNT LALAIING to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

Since writing to you this morning touching the surrender of Philippeville, I have heard from M de Bousies, Governor of Avesnes, that the enemy has been reconnoitring that town, and that he has certain information of his design to seize some strong positions in the neighbourhood of it, in order to invest it and serve it like Philippeville. He asks for reinforcements and a considerable sum of money to pay the garrison; but this province being, as you know, so denuded of money that we can with difficulty get it for our frontier defence, I beg you will be so kind as to aid us, and also to put forward as soon as may be the negotiations commended with the ambassador of the Duke of Anjou. The people here are persuaded that they are undone if the Duke does not remain their friend, and in fact, paying no heed to my representations, wish without my consent to send for him. I have thought it well to inform you of this, that steps may be taken betimes; for individually I do not wish to undertake anything. Through our good offices the Estates of this province have agreed to all that has been proposed to them.

I have added to this a memorandum of what is most needed at Avesnes. Please see that it is provided, for on our side we can furnish nothing but a few casks of vinegar.—Mons, 21 May 1578.

*Copy. Fr. 1 p. [Ibid. VI. 82.]*

May 22. 898. The ESTATES OF HAINAULT to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

It having come to our knowledge that the treaty with the ambassadors of the Duke of Alençon has been delayed or broken down for a trifling cause or none at all, we could not omit for the service we owe to this distressed country, to call in clear terms upon the States-General to set it on foot again, as you may see more fully set out in the enclosed. But as we know that your Excellency penetrates deeply into affairs, and by a singular foresight may consider that a failure here will bring everything to disgraceful confusion, we urgently entreat you that things may be set going again, and the ambassadors satisfied; seeing that the point of difference is unimportant, and that we had better gather the fruit than dispute in this matter with such a prince.—Mons, 22 May 1578.

*Copy. Endd.  $\frac{3}{4}$  p. [Ibid. VI. 81.]*

May 22. 899. LAURENCE TOMSON to DAVISON.

Please send back by this bearer 'one of the directions were sent you' for the delivery of the money to the States, or a copy of it. I thought I had retained a copy, till on looking for it to-day I missed it. Haste made me forget myself, and in thinking to make two copies I made one only. 'You shall command me triple, wherein you may employ me.'—Greenwich, 22 May 1578.

*Add. Endd. 12 ll. [Ibid. VI. 84.]*