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nowhere seek in this case counsel better than of himself. In turn I found him resolved to go forwards if the news from Brussels be not such as give him cause to alter his purpose.

The surrender of Bois-le-Duc is true; but I have not seen the conditions, which his Excellency promised to send me. And now they of Breda have sent hither eight of their soldiers to offer to do the like, and to deliver unto the Prince the Colonel Frundsberg whom they have apprehended.

There is a bruit that the Spaniards destined to be returned hither out of Italy have been embarked for Africa, but the alteration is too sudden to be very likely.—Antwerp, 21 Sept. 1577.

Add. Endd. 1 p. [Holl. and Fland. III. 114.]

Enclosed in above:

242A. Copy of the instructions, &c. [No. 235], together with:—

Sept. 19. 242B. REPLY of the PRINCE of ORANGE to the ESTATES.

Sep. 20 [?] Having heard the propositions of the Deputies, the Prince of Orange replies as follows:—

He thanks God and praises the Estates for coming to a firm and unanimous resolution for mutual security among the provinces that, in pursuance of the pacification of Ghent, they may arrange together for their preservation.

Hoping that God, who has inspired this union, will bless their laudable intention to the general and individual good, and the restoration of our afflicted country to its former flower and prosperity.

He cannot sufficiently thank them for their good opinion of him, and the sincere confidence which they show in his goodwill towards them and the peace of the land.

While he cannot recognise in himself all the virtues which they are pleased to attribute to him, he will willingly employ in their service not only such experience and judgement as he has, but every means, even to his own life and blood; and will not fail to respond with the utmost of his power to their confidence in him.

As for coming immediately to Brussels, though he would like nothing better than to obey them, even for the desire he has of seeing his beloved country again, and enjoying the company of his best friends in the place where he was brought up, he begs them to consider that, owing to the reciprocal obligations between himself and the countries of Holland and Zealand, he has in the past taken no step of importance without communicating with the Estates of those countries; and therefore he begs now, since those Estates are about to meet directly at Gouda, that the Estates-General will agree to his similarly taking advice with them on this matter.

Since the Estates desire that the Prince will make some demonstration counter to the calumnies uttered by evil-disposed persons, to make known to all that he and those of Holland and Zealand fully desire to observe what they have promised by the pacification,

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and that to this effect he will permit the exercise of the Catholic Religion in those countries, he begs them to believe nothing save that he desires entirely to maintain the said pacification ;

But the question of permitting the exercise of that Religion touches primarily the Estates of those countries, who stipulated at the pacification that they should have no innovation at least till the States-General had met. The Prince cannot think that he ought to permit any innovation without the consent of the Estates of Holland and Zeeland, fearing lest if, from that cause, any disturbance or discontent arose among the people, the blame might lie on him.

As regards a formal promise on the part of the Prince that he and those of Holland and Zeeland will not allow the exercise of the Roman Catholic Religion to be attacked, or that of any other religion to be introduced in the other provinces of the Low Countries, he is ready to promise for himself and for them, that pursuant to the pacification they will not suffer any attempt to be made against the public peace, or the exercise of the Catholic Religion.

As the Prince has no idea of usurping any authority over the Estates-General, but only of assisting in the direction of affairs to the best of his ability, and so far as they may please to employ him, he is ready to promise that he will leave the authority to take order in this matter, pursuant to the pacification, at their free disposal, without hindering them or suffering them to be hindered, and will aid in chastising all those who by scandalous conduct, or any kind of overt attempt, may seek to disturb the common tranquillity.

Copy. Fr. 2 pp.

243. *Another copy of the Prince's reply.*

Fr. 4 pp. Endd.: Conditions et promesses par le Prince d'Orenge sur sa venue a Bruxelles; and below: Sept. 1577. Upon the P. receiving into Brussels. (Walsingham's mark.) [Holl. and Fland. II. 115.]

243B. *Another copy. Fr. 4 pp. Endd. in Fr. [Ibid. II. 116.]*

Sept. 21. **244.** [DON JOHN to the ESTATES.]

Explanations and conditions which it seems good to us to make for better understanding and execution of the present treaty.

Art. 5.—We agree to this as regards us, and without prejudice to the parties, it being understood that the Germans shall go out under safe-conduct from the Estates.

Art. 6.—We pass this, declaring that the word "other" shall be taken as referring to places held since the beginning of the present discontent.

Art. 10.—We accept the Bishop of Liège, the Duke of Cleves, or any other that may be agreed upon.

As to the restitution of property, it must be done in good faith, even when the Estates or others have profited by it, and it is no longer in existence.