

A.D. 1579.

what means you can yourself to obtain the confession, and to learn what speeches he uttered at the time of his death; for though by torture he might be drawn to utter an untruth, I cannot think him so devilish but that at the time of his death he would revoke what before he had untruly uttered. Pray use some care and diligence in this cause, for I would be loath that my poor credit, which I hold more dear than my life, should be long subject to so villainous a slander.—London, 10 Jan. 1578.

P.S. (in Walsingham's hand).—The merchants' post desired me to pray you that hereafter he may not be stayed by you as he has been; which has been greatly prejudicial to him.

Add. Endd. 1 p. [Holl. and Fl. XI. 23.]

Jan. 11. **511.** DUKE OF ANJOU to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

Having resolved to start next Wednesday on my way back to France I wished to let you know that I have written to the States to provide for the safety of Binche, Maubeuge and the other towns, where there are French garrisons. I have decided to move these into France, leaving none, so as to remove all cause of complaint and outcry from those of this country. I am also ordering Combelle, who is with M. de Montigny, to withdraw to France with his troops, which I am sure he will do at once.

In future, wherever I am, I shall always retain the good will of which I have made demonstration towards the States, of which I beg you to assure them. For yourself, you will always have as good a share as you can desire of my friendship, as I will show when occasion offers.

And inasmuch as the States have not, as I believe, taken measures for the security of the places which I took from the enemy, it has seemed to me advisable to send word to Count Lalaing to attend to it before Tuesday next, when the soldiers will go out, in case no steps are taken by you or the States.—Condé, 11 Jan. 1578.

Copy. Endd. by L. Tomson. Fr. 1 p. [Ibid. XI. 24.]

Jan. 13. **512.** DAVISON to WALSINGHAM.

Just after my arrival here on Friday last, I received yours of Dec. 31 touching the order for sending over her Majesty's obligations, which on my return to Antwerp I will not fail to accomplish, as also to move the States either to treat with Spinola for prolonging the term of their payment of the sums for which her Majesty is bound or else for the discharge thereof so that through their default he be not called upon for that debt at the time limited; though in my opinion it will be as hard to bring Spinola to agree to the one, and so frustrate the effect of his bonds, as it is unlikely that the States will be able to perform the other. Which makes me doubt that they will be driven to have recourse to her Majesty, who being 'cautioned' by their pledge in my hands, which she can at any time have sent over, together with the bonds of the States, I cannot see (under correction) any great cause to refuse to satisfy them unless