

A.D. 1576.

August 23. 885. The PRINCE OF ORANGE to the EARL OF SUSSEX.
 To the same effect as his letter of this date to Walsingham.
 —Middleburg, 23 Aug. 1576. *Signed.*
Add. Endd., with seal. Fr. Pp. 1½.

August 24. 886. MONSIEUR ST. ALDEGONDE to MR. TAMSON.

Since his departure Winter has received no letter from him. Has been expecting to hear from him. When they were hoping that everything was proceeding favourably a storm has sprung up, from whence he does not know. Cannot understand the causes of the Queen's anger. If trade between their enemies and England is permitted it will be their mainfest destruction. Complains of the silence of Walsingham and the other members of the Privy Council when they see them so unjustly calumniated. Certain merchants came over with the Queen's envoys from whom they asked a subsidy of 250,000 crowns, to which they assented willingly, and when they demanded that the rest of the ships which were arrested should be set free they were liberated. Begg that he will assist them in this matter. *Signed.*

Add. Endd.: "24 Aug. 1576." Lat. Pp. 2½.

August 24. 887. ST. ALDEGONDE to WALSINGHAM.

1. Was marvellously astonished at seeing the fruit of Messrs. Winter and Beale's mission turn out so contrary to the opinion which he had conceived of it, for, looking at their prudence and their good will towards peace, he was sure that when her Majesty had heard their report she would have agreed to that which was promised by them. They have since been astounded by the common report that not only has she refused to ratify the contract which has been entered into with the Merchant Adventurers, but that she has fitted out ships of war to interfere with the affairs of Zealand and hinder their war with their enemies. He can scarcely credit this, but the seizure of three of their vessels has given occasion for this report, though he thinks they must have committed some fault worthy of punishment. Knows that it may be said that they have given cause for this by the seizure of the English ships about which Winter and Beale were sent if they had not apparently treated with them to their contentment. As for their dealings with the Merchant Adventurers, it is no new thing to borrow money in that manner in time of great necessity. Assures him of their willingness to obey the Queen in all matters that will not tend to their utter ruin, but begs him to consider that this trade with their enemies can only tend to their utter undoing, for this is the real sword with which their enemies cut their throats. They do not pretend to treat with her as princes and monarchs but beg that out of her special grace she will have regard to their preservation. Their ruin will bring no profit