

A.D. 1578.

Above all, for all our interests, your Majesty should send over your forces without delay or loss of time, as they are so acceptable here. Also, as I fear that the Estates will not on your Majesty's credit get money as promptly as they require, I know that they are going to ask you through M. de Famars to grant them some ready cash. By doing this you will easily establish in your devotion all who have gone astray.

The Prince of Orange is busy putting affairs into better order at Ghent. We have as yet no certain news of improvement; but good hope that by his prudence and destiny he will bring them to reason, the more so that his coming has pleased them and he has great credit with them. He was as openly rejoiced as could be at the good dispatches which I brought, as his letters to me testified.

The Archduke ought to be here in 2 or 3 days, to govern under the conditions which he has approved; after which I shall repair, with your ambassador, to the army, to dispatch M. de Famars. The Estates have been very glad of the coming of Mr. Leighton, sent by your Majesty, who ought to be here to-day. I will tell him of the conduct of our affairs, and of the humours with which he will have to deal.—Brussels, 4 Jan. 1578. (*Signed*) Charles Philippes de Croy.

*Holograph. Add. Endd. by L. Tomson. Fr. 2 pp. [Ibid. V. 4.]*

Jan. 4. 578. The MARQUIS of HAVRECH to the LORDS of the COUNCIL.

As I was writing to her Majesty I would not omit to send you a word, to thank you on the part of the Estates and my own for your goodwill towards this country, and your kindness to me during my stay there; and to beg you always to bear a friendly hand in the direction of our affairs. I arrived on the 30th ult., and related my negotiations at large next day. They avowed them entirely, and will reply by M. de Famars, who will be able to start in 5 or 6 days. He will ask her Majesty to hasten the succour of troops.—Brussels, 4 Jan. 1578.

*Add. Endd. by L. Tomson:* All accorded by the States. Desire expedition in transporting the men. *Fr. 1 p. [Ibid. V. 5.]*

Jan. 4. 579. DAVISON to LEICESTER.

[*Draft, almost obliterated by water, but apparently urging speedy action, and containing information similar to that given in the last letters.*]

*Endd. ½ p. [Ibid. V. 6.]*

Jan. 5. 580. The PRINCE of ORANGE to DAVISON.

K. d. L. x.  
217.

Since mine of yesterday, I have received an extract from the article containing the Queen's wish in regard to the Roman religion, which I subjoin. You can judge how important it is and how much injury it will cause us. I can at any rate assure you that nothing would be more injurious to the advancement of religion; for when those who demand its suppression see that those from whom we might look for some favour not only do not favour

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us but oppose us, I leave you to think if they will ever agree to anything for the sake of the religion, on which, nevertheless, the union of these countries is founded. For my own part, nothing could happen more inopportunately to make me lose all credit, than these news. I am really sure only of those who are of the religion or favourable to it; and when once they hear that this is her Majesty's resolution they will never have the opinion of me which it is expedient they should have, seeing that I have promised them the contrary. I should never have expected her Majesty to prejudice them against the religion which she herself professes, as M. Famars will tell you more fully. Which makes me all the more beg that you and Mr. Leighton will advise me, for which I shall be grateful.—Ghent, 5 Jan. 1578.

*Appended is the following:* Also that so far from wishing to introduce any novelty, her Majesty desires, on the contrary, that you should know that she will not permit any novelty to be in any way introduced; still less that anything should be attempted prejudicial to the obedience of our sovereign prince and natural lord, or to the Catholic religion, in which we were born and brought up, and our prince would have us continue.

*Add. Endd. Fr. 1½ pp.+9 ll. [Ibid. V. 7.]*

Jan. 5.  
K. d. L. x.  
215.  
(From another  
copy.)

**581.** REPRESENTATIONS made by MR. LEIGHTON, Ambassador, from the QUEEN of ENGLAND to the ESTATES-GENERAL.

Her Majesty, greatly regretting to learn the present condition of the Low Countries, and desirous, for the affection which she bears both to the Catholic King, her good brother, and to the welfare of his subjects, to obviate by all honest means the ruin which the renewal of the war is likely to bring after it has sent a gentleman to the King, both to point out the danger into which he will be flinging himself by continuing the war, and to advise him, as a *débonnaire* princess should do, to take steps towards a good peace with his subjects. The way and means thereto, in her opinion, is this: To permit them to enjoy their ancient privileges, to give them a governor acceptable to them, and to maintain the Perpetual Edict in conformity with the pacification of Ghent; things which ought not, she thinks, to be difficult, seeing they desire to change neither their master nor their religion. But if the King will come to no terms, her Majesty has instructed her said servant to inform him, that as well in defence of their liberties as to avoid the dangers likely to ensue to her own realm, she is resolved by all means to assist them.

Similarly, that nothing may be omitted which may lead to peace, she has sent Mr. Leighton to the Estates and to Don John, to bring about, if possible, an armistice until the King's answer is known. She thinks Don John will not refuse to listen; but if he does, she has instructed Mr. Leighton to let him also know her resolution.

Much as she desires that the Estates will lend an ear to the proposal of an armistice, she has no desire to lull them to sleep, or make them careless of their safety; but rather advises them to provide for their own defence by all good means.