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make incursions even to the gates of Deventer, the like being 'used' also by the States against them. Staveren castle is thought to be yielded by this. It has held out longer than was thought, being at first judged to be unprovided with victuals; but the contrary has since appeared.

The Prince is at Leeuwarden in Friesland, where he is said to be devising some means of treaty with those of Groningen, who will receive none of the enemy's soldiers.

The Malcontents of 'Henow' are with all their forces about Cambray, and have, by report, sent the cannon thither, the Prince of Parma lying at Valenciennes to be nearer.

The Scots in Vilvorde are 'quieted,' and payed certain months by the pole [?]; wherewith the colonel, captain, and chief officers are aggrieved and will not take such contentment, considering their long service and slender payment; but demand their pay after the old roll, until the former accounts are cleared, and a new mustering.

Great treachery was discovered in Brussels by the intercepting of a letter which the Prince of Parma wrote to the Scots; and at a banquet to be made by M. d'Auxy, who by his wife's procurement was made a chief instrument in the practice, the Governor, Captains, and all the chief officers were to have been slain and the town fired in divers places. D'Auxy with his wife and family are taken, and confess to have practised with the Prince of Parma, having written and received sundry letters. They crave for mercy, and his wife, as author and 'intissor' of her husband requests pardon for him, submitting herself to any punishment.

The enemy's horsemen, who a few days since were near this town and took some prisoners, were on their retiring charged by some of the States' garrison, who released the prisoners, recovered the spoil, and put them to flight with the loss of all their own 'carriage.'

The three Members of Flanders are framing a new camp, to consist only of 3,000 or 4,000 foot and 1,000 horse; the chief of it, M. Villiers, who was governor of Bouchain.

1 p. [*Holl. and Fl. XIII.* 20.]

April 16. **269.** The PRINCE OF ORANGE to the QUEEN.

The Estates of Holland and Zealand have informed me of the suit which the merchants of Ipswich are pressing against them for payment of the second term of an obligation into which they have entered. They tell me that the instalment is no doubt long overdue, and that they would have used every endeavour to content the merchants; but looking to the stress of affairs which has for some time prevailed in these parts, they have been compelled to employ on the costs of the war whatever money they could raise, to avoid the certainty of utter ruin, inasmuch as the enemy, thinking to carry us at a single blow, has been attacking us in various places. This was the sole reason why, to their great regret, they could not discharge their debt at the appointed time. And as for this reason

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they find themselves at present without ready cash, and consequently unable to pay the second term. They have prayed me to represent this to your Majesty, in order that you may be certain it is not from lack of good will that they have failed to pay hitherto. Now I am fully assured of your Majesty's clemency, and beg that you will take into consideration the expenses which those of Holland and Zealand have for some years had, and still have, on their hands in the defence of their country; and will be pleased to excuse the delay that has taken place, and not permit any stay of their merchants' goods and vessels to be made on that account. Also that you will be pleased to grant them the further favour to give order to the merchants of Ipswich, your subjects, that they may be content to postpone the payment of the term in question until October next, on condition that those of Holland and Zealand then pay in addition to the principal, interest at the rate of 10 per cent. The Estates and I feel sure that the merchants will not fail to meet your Majesty's wishes.—Middelburg, 16 April 1580. (*Signed*) Guiffe de Nassau.

Add. Endd. by L. Tomson. Fr. 1½ pp. [Holl. and Fl. XIII. 12.]

April 18.

270. 'The examination of the mariners of the Spanish bark stayed at "Winsellse" since Friday the 8th of April, made there the 18th of the same month.'

Rodorigo Kassapino Sinuatso [*sic*], about 23 years of age, of Laredo, says that they took their lemons and oranges in at Collindo, a channel within a mile of Laredo; and that the ship has three owners, Jehan de Loes ce tien [*sic*], Torrinio di Cotsio [*sic*], and Pedro da Lencres, who is master for the present voyage. She is laden in all with 323,000 oranges and lemons, which belong partly to the owners and partly to the mariners. He says that at their departure from Laredo they needed no letter from any officer, for that kind of merchandise pays no custom, and they have none but such as they have heretofore at their arrival delivered to the mayor here. Charter party or other bills of lading they have none, for the commodity belongs to the owners and the company. At Laredo he says there is a *corregidor* for the king, who governs four places, to wit, Laredo, Santander, Castro and St. Vincent, and in each of these places he has his lieutenant. His name is Don Hernando da Badez; he appoints officers to search ships when required. At their departure they were minded to come for London or Zealand, where they might hear of best 'uttrance' for their oranges.

He likewise declares that the day before they entered the channel of Winchelsea, the wind was at N.E., and blew so much that they could not go ahead, and so put in here. Otherwise they meant to have gone along to Dover Road, there to know where they might best go for the sale of their commodity; and according as they learnt that the best 'untrance' [*sic*] was at London or Zealand, they proposed to go. They departed alone from Laredo, and there was an English bark of 30 or 40 tons which meant to lade oranges as he thought for England. Likewise a fly-boat of Zealand was at Laredo to lade oranges, also another Spanish bark of 30 or 40 tons,