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Poland; the Duchess of Nemours stepped in requiring that preferment as of duty for her husband before a stranger. Now the King will bestow it from them both upon his father-in-law, M. de Vaudemont, thereupon the Duke of Nevers is departed to his house. The King of Navarre had leave to go in company of M. de Losse, Captain of the Guard, to La Fere in Picardy and is returned. M. Danville has taken another strong town lying upon the Herault not far from Aiguesmortes, called Agde. The King when at Rheims gave out divers commissions for levying of men. M. La Chastre, Governor of Bourges in Berry, is appointed to come in embassy to the Queen, to signify to her the King's sacre and marriage, and as they say to require countenance of the League. This La Chastre is famous for the siege of Sancerre, where he was general and used much extremity. The King's ambassador with the Turk has written that the Turk makes double the preparation for war that his father did; he has put his brother to death. It is said that they of Marseilles have cast two of the Italian customers there into the sea. Bellegarde has left Dauphiny *pro derelicto* and is come to court. It is said, and likely to be true, for no man looks to that country for the King, that Montbrun has taken two towns upon the Rhone already. It was constantly reported that Montmorency should have been set at liberty, but now the matter is as far off as ever. Some say the King had good inclination thereto, but that the Chancellor dissuaded him upon pretence that if he did deliver him the Parisians would give him no money. It is given out daily that deputies come to the King to treat for peace; they find fault with their passports and such other dilatory excuses.—Paris, 5 March 1574. *Signed.*

Add., with seal. Endd. by Burghley. Pp. 34.

March [5]. 36. SOLDIERS in the LOW COUNTRIES.

20,000 Almain soldiers under five colonels, divided into 70 ensigns of 300 men each. About 5,000 Spanish soldiers in regiments of about 500. Of Walloons there are about 11,000 men. Englishmen in wages under Gaigne and Loveles about 90 persons. The whole number of foot soldiers about 36,000. The whole number both horse and foot about 40,000. Names of the different commanders given.

Endd. : March 1574. Pp. 2.

37. Another copy of the above.
Endd. Injured by damp. Pp.

March 5. 38. REMONSTRANCE of the PRINCE OF ORANGE and the STATES of HOLLAND to the KING OF SPAIN.

1. Complain that the Duke of Alva, under pretext of his government, has so misgoverned the Low Countries that they have been unwillingly compelled to take up arms for the conservation of their liberties and to withstand the cruel proceedings of the said Duke of Alva and his adherents the

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outlandish nations. They have not only been brought into misery through wars and debates, but also into disfavour with "circumvoisin" nations, to the loss of all haunt and traffic, handicrafts, negotiations, and commonwealth. Their humble suit is therefore that he will with a pitiful eye behold the present miserable and lamentable state of the Low Countries, and reduce the same to unity and quietness, which cannot be brought to pass as long as the said foreign nations have here either rule, power, or jurisdiction, being naturally bent to seek more their own lust and profit than the common weal of the country. They therefore beg that he will cause the said outlandish and strange nations to avoid and depart the country, and by the free communication and advice of the natural subjects and estates of these Low Countries duly assembled good order and politic rule may be established. By the continuance of these wars and commotions nothing is to be looked for but depopulation and ruin of the land, and the inhabitants giving themselves to take on arms, leaving their accustomed trades and occupations, whereby the people seem inclined to give themselves to a licentious liberty, out of which wars may arise, and a perilous and dangerous alteration follow in all traffic and merchandising by sea. They request that especial regard may be had hereunto, to the intent that Holland and Zealand and the provinces adjoining may be avoided of all foreign nations and soldiers, and that all occasions of war may be suspended.

In the margin was written, in form of apostillation:—

2. The King being informed of the miseries and calamities above mentioned has been pleased to ordain commissioners to communicate with the deputies of the suppliants, so that the best ways and remedies may be provided for satisfying of the same.—Done at Breda, March 5, 1574. *Stilo curiæ. Signed by the Secretary De la Torre.*

3. To the above the deputies of the Prince of Orange and the estates reply to the commissioners of the King of Spain that they cannot be content with anything else than a plain and categorical answer to their request touching the withdrawal of the foreign soldiers from the Low Countries.

Endd. by Lord Burghley: 5 March 1574.

March 5. 39. NEWS from ANTWERP.

1. Names of the six hostages required for those nine persons sent by the Prince to deal at Breda for the conclusion of a peace, being three Flemings and three Spaniards. Names of the nine deputies sent by the Prince. The King will not allow any "interim," much less any alteration in religion, and requires the absolute yielding of all towns and fortresses withheld from him. Certain Englishmen were lately apprehended for seeking the destruction of the Prince. Don Diego de Cordova was slain with a harquebuss as he was viewing the town of Buren. Count Annibal Altemps, captain of a regiment of Almaines, is very importune for his pay, to whom the Marquis