

A.D. 1575.

Alençon may seem a person meetest both to be an author of a general peace, and also a principal person with the forces of France and Almain now at his command to take the enterprise of Holland and Zealand in hand. If on the other part he finds the Governor willing to hear of her good meaning, he shall let him know how well she likes thereof, and that upon knowledge had from him of his opinion she will not omit any opportunity to bring these differences to some good end for both parties. He is to allege on behalf of the Prince and the States what he shall think good as of himself not using her name. In treating with the Governor, he shall use all his speeches as it may appear that the care she has that the Low Countries should not fall into the hands of the French is the only cause which moves her to deal herein at this time. If he finds it not unlikely, but that he would be content that she should deal with the Prince and the Estates to reduce them to the King's obedience with their surety and enjoying their ancient liberties, he is to move the Governor that he may repair to the Prince. He is to join with John Hastings, and shall move the Prince to such conditions as may seem reasonable for him to assent unto with his surety and the liberty of the country. If he cannot obtain licence to go to the Prince, he shall find some means to advertise him of his negotiations, and for this purpose shall have a cipher to serve between him and John Hastings. He is to use his best endeavour to let the natural persons of the Low Countries know how careful she is of their liberties, and yet not otherwise but to remain subjects of the King as Duke of Burgundy. He is to use all means to understand the numbers and forces of the King of Spain and where they are placed, and to let the Governor know the good usage that the last ships coming out of Spain had in her ports.—Oct. 29.

Pp. 74.

Oct. 29. 425. INSTRUCTIONS for JOHN HASTINGS sent by the Queen to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

After he shall be well informed of her messages sent to the King of Spain by Sir Henry Cobham, and to the Governor of the Low Countries by Robert Corbet, and of the messages lately sent hither by the Prince of Orange, and from three persons of the Estates of Holland by Edward Chester without knowledge of the Prince, he shall repair with the Queen's letters of credit to the Prince and the Estates. He shall first deal with the Prince apart, and inform him what she understands by report of Caivart, the sum whereof was, that he and the Estates were occasioned to provide otherwise for themselves than heretofore they had done, which was to require aid of some prince being a neighbour to them, considering their inability to endure their defence against the forces of the King of Spain, and therefore they must accept the offers of France, if the Queen would not take them into

A.D. 1575.

her protection. He is to say that she is sorry to hear that the Princes' necessity is such, but most of all that he and the Estates should think it good for them to put themselves in the power of France. As she means as well or better than any other Prince to him and that country, she requires the Prince to communicate the true state of his whole cause to her, and specially upon what points of difference the last treaty at Breda broke off, and what are the forces of the King and of his own party. He is also to say that it cannot be thought that France can yield any help to purpose at the time, the King being so encumbered by the separation of his brother the Duke of Alençon, and if the Prince be borne in hand that this departure of the French King's brother is a devised matter between them for the King's advantage, he may assure him that he is therein abused, for it is well known to her that the Duke of Alençon's departure was for the safety of his life and the help of those who are oppressed. Even if the French King could aid them he will do so for his own gain, and the Estates would only change the oppression of the Spaniards for that of the French, and in the end lose all liberties. She has sent Sir Henry Cobham to the King of Spain to earnestly advise him to accord with his subjects in reasonable sort, but has not yet received any answer, and has therefore sent Robert Corbet to the Governor of the Low Countries to lay before him the danger of provoking the Estates of Holland to relinquish that King's obedience, and to move him to prevent the same by more reasonable dealing with them; and also willed him plainly to understand that she has such an interest for her own countries to have the Low Countries governed peaceably, that she may not neglect any good means to procure them quietness as heretofore they have had. She has also willed a reasonable answer to be made to the Governor, if he should object (as divers times both he and the Duke of Alva have done), that if she should give such aid to the King, as they pretend she is bound to do by treaty, and banish all those who resort to her realm and shut her ports against such as withstand the King's power, the troubles would soon be at an end, and the King have perfect obedience of his subjects. Though the Prince seems doubtful that she does not favour him, yet if he considers he will find that by denying this she has not neglected the estate of those countries now assailed by the Spaniards, more especially if he will consider how her realm is subject to the Spaniards' rancour and deep malice hereby. If she should do for the Prince's relief any act overt, she could not but look thereby to enter into open war, whereof the issue is most uncertain, except that thereby her own country and people would be wasted, she is therefore very desirous that these troubles might be ended by some accord, and to that end also she sends him to the Prince to confer with him, and see if by her means by treaty the causes might be ended. He is also to inform the Prince of the dangers to proceed with France,

A.D. 1575.

and to remind him of the former examples of Naples and Metz. As for the matter moved to her to receive him and the country of Holland into her protection that cannot be, but that an open war must ensue betwixt her and the King of Spain, and perchance in respect of religion with the King of France. Considering also that she has no title to those countries, she requires the Prince not to think it is any lack of goodwill in her if she first tries all other means to do them good before she enters into a war with the King of Spain. Wisdom also would have her foresee that the great wealth of her subjects in that King's dominions should not be subject to seizure. And for that Edward Chester came with a secret message from Count Culembourg and two others of the Estates of Holland, he is to give them to understand how well she likes of their devotion towards her rather than towards France, and to assure them of her favour, and that she will not omit any reasonable means to procure the restitution of their ancient liberties. He shall use the like reasons to them as he is instructed to use towards the Prince of Orange, and do his best to maintain them in their unwillingness to depend on the French. And because Edward Chester reported that they desired an aid of her of 12,000^{li} a month for a year, and then she should receive the revenues and profits of the countries of Holland and Zealand, which were esteemed above 100,000^{li} sterling, although she would not have him deal directly therein with them in her name, yet of himself he may seem to use speech thereof, and understand what are the accustomed revenues of these countries. He may object that though they should be aided by the Queen, yet it is not probable that at the end of the year the country would be able to pay anything of value on account of its former wasting, and for that their own forces must be maintained and continued. Her meaning is that he should as of himself use all manner of arguments and objections to come to the particular understanding of their estate, and what hope there is of her being benefitted by them or by retaining those countries in her protection.

Draft corrected by Burghley. Endd. : 29 Oct. 1575. Pp. 8½.

426. Another copy.
Pp. 5½.

427. Original draft by Burghley.
Endd. : 22 Oct. Pp. 7.

Oct' 29. **428.** JOHN HASTINGS to the EARL OF LEICESTER and LORD BURGHLEY.

Hearing that certain soldiers were sailing over about the time of his going ; in order to avoid occasion of speech, intends taking his passage by Harwich and the Brille. Sends a book with an account of the towns and villages of Holland and Zealand. London, 29 Oct. 1575.

Add. Endd., with seal. P. ¾.