

A.D. 1576.

April 16. 736.

BURGHLEY, SUSSEX, LEICESTER, and WALSINGHAM to the
PRINCE OF ORANGE.

^ their

As they have always borne him honour and affection they regret extremely that Queen should have such just cause of offence on account of the daily piracies committed under his authority, which have besides the effect of totally alienating her subjects from him and his cause, and even causing them to murmur against their own government for not avenging these outrages. They desire him to consider of what consequence this matter is, and to provide for its remedy. The disordered and barbarous people of Flushing continuing these atrocities cannot but render him odious in the eyes of all Christendom, and bring the cause of religion into scandal and decay and tend to the utter overthrow of his enterprise.—Westminster, 16 April 1576. *Signed.*

Copy. Endd. Fr. P. 1.

April 16. 737.

INSTRUCTIONS for ROBERT BEALE sent to the PRINCE OF
ORANGE.

On his arrival at Flushing he shall inform himself whether the ships of the Merchant Adventurers are released or whether they mean to detain them; and if he finds that they be departed, and in no danger of arrest, he shall deliver her message to the Prince or, in his absence, to the Governor of Zealand. If he finds that they are not released, but that there is hope of their being set at liberty, he shall let them understand that her Majesty finds her honour greatly wounded by the daily misusing of her subjects, and specially by the outrage lately committed upon the Earl of Oxford, and that in case the offenders be not severely punished, she will be forced to put in execution such remedies as she would be loth to do. In case he finds the Prince or Governors stand upon conditional terms as to have the ships arrested in the West first released, he shall let them understand that they forget themselves in standing upon conditional terms with a prince of her Majesty's quality; besides which the arrest of their ships proceeded of sundry complaints of spoils and outrages sustained by her subjects (the said Flushingers having carried in within the space of one month 30 sail of her subjects). They would then see that the cause of arrest proceeded from themselves, so are they in reason first to make satisfaction, and that by staying the ships of the Merchant Adventurers, to whom by contract they have given free passage, they have offered double injury. He is to be guided by his discretion accordingly as he shall find the state of affairs there, only it is necessary, until the ships are released, that he forbears to use threatenings, but when they are departed, he shall deliver her message to the Prince and Governors.—15 April 1576.

Copy. Pp. 14.