

A.D. 1577.

Feb. [26.] 1295.

QUEEN ELIZABETH to the REGENT MORTON.

Has received his letter of the 5th inst., exhorting her to take care for the preservation of her own person, the continuance of quietness in her realm, and the upholding of the common cause of religion, for which she thanks him, as also for the continual care and pains which he has taken for the administration of justice in behalf of her subjects and for the tranquillity of both these realms.

*Draft. Endd., Feb. Pp. 1½.*

Feb. 26. 1296. PETITION of the MERCHANT ADVENTURERS to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

As they have been unable to find any one who will be caution for them for the payment of certain tolls on their merchandise, and as they have already remained 40 days, being also 50 persons, which has put them to great expense and loss, they now beg that the Prince will allow them to go to England without paying any further charges on their goods. *Short note in Dutch, dated Middleburg, 26 Feb. 1577.*

*Copy. Endd. P. 1.*

Feb. 27. 1297. The DEPUTIES at ANTWERP to the STATES GENERAL.

The peace was published at Antwerp to-day to the great contentment, both of the people and also of the Spaniards. The notice will be given to-morrow to the Spaniards, so that their departure will take place by the 20th March. The peace has been proclaimed in various other towns, and all acts of hostility ordered to cease. It will be well if the States will publish the same orders in their camp. The forts on the Scheldt are to be disarmed so that traffic may be free. Julian Romero has bought a quantity of wheat at Bergen-op-Zoom, which he wishes to sell again. It will be advisable to purchase it and make it into bread, which may be sold again to the Spaniards at a good profit.—Antwerp, 27 Feb. 1577. *Signed.*

*Copy. Endd. Fr. Pp. 1½.*

Feb. 27. 1298. NEWS from the LOW COUNTRIES.

1. Brussels, 20 Feb. 1577.—The clerical party in the States General have been the principal cause of this peace, because they were very much afraid that if the States continued sitting, their credit would diminish and that liberty of conscience would follow. Besides this the prelates feared lest the States would turn out all bishops appointed by the Spaniards and Cardinal Granville, as being contrary to the privileges of the country. In addition, there was the jealousy of the Duke of Arschot and his brother towards the Prince of Orange, as they feared lest if the war continued he would become head of the State. They were also with many nobles and others bought over by the promises of Don John. This peace is called "La Paix des Prestres" from the number of clergy concerned in its negotiation. A copy has been sent to the Prince of Orange for his signature, but they have published