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large, with the rest of the Council. On Friday I shall know her Majesty's pleasure for those that are to go into Germany.

Mr. William Gorge sets forth to-day with the Swiftsure to deal against pirates westward, having received instructions yesterday.

The letter enclosed came out of the North.—From the Court, 18 June 1578.

Add. Endd. 1 p. [Ibid. VII. 17.]

June 18. 26. LAURENCE TOMSON to DAVISON.

I send two advertisements, which my master wished me to acquaint you with. That in French you may communicate to M. Villiers, otherwise keep it secret, and make reserve of it till my master's coming.—Canterbury, 18 June 1578.

Add. Endd. 6 ll. [Ibid. VII. 18.]

June 19. 27. Copy of a letter from M. DE LA MOTTE to [*qy.* the ESTATES] enclosing copy of instructions given by the French King to M. de Revers, sent to the Prince of Orange.

Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding the small cause that is given me, I am unwilling not to let you see how the King of France is trying to procure a good peace for us with the Prince of Orange, as you will learn from the copy of the instructions of M. de Revers who passed through here on his way to Antwerp. Appended is a discourse by a certain individual, of which you will take such account as you think fit. Take my endeavours in good part, for I am trying only to maintain the union, and to live in such peace as is meet. On my side no injury or '*agrave*' has been done to anyone, and my sole desire is to go on in the same way. If my neighbours do the like, all will be at peace; and this it seems to me, under conviction, will have the best results, as no doubt you understand better than I.—Gravelines, 19 June 1578. (Signed) Valentin de Pardieu, Sr. de la Motte.

The Instructions.

With reference to what the Prince of Orange has written to the king by M. de Revers as to his desire for peace and tranquillity in the Low Countries, his Majesty has thought good to send M. de Revers once more, to lay the following points before him.

First, his Majesty has never been more desirous to see his own realm at peace than he now is so to see the Low Countries, contrary perhaps to the opinion of some who think that he should rather foment the existing troubles to his own advantage. But it has never been his nature to profit by the misfortunes of others, especially his neighbours, nor to prefer his private interest to the public good of Christendom.

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For this reason his Majesty is glad to hear that the Prince is on his side well-disposed. He will not conceal from him that many persons are trying to get the contrary believed, spreading reports that he is the sole cause which is preventing the settlement of affairs there. His Majesty has never believed this of him; he has in all his conduct shown himself too prudent to wish to bear alone the burden and the odium of so perilous a war.

His Majesty has accordingly thought good, when treating of the affairs of the said countries with the ministers of the Catholic king, to communicate to them what the Prince has written of his wishes in this respect, praying them also to let him have some assurance of those of the king since he protested that he desired nothing so much as to render him entire obedience, and by the same means to consider how to appease the troubles.

To which his Majesty found them so well inclined that he would not postpone informing the Prince thereof through M. de Revers; judging that what is lacking is rather a good intercessor to arrange an understanding between them than a good zeal and affection on either side.

The ministers of the Catholic king have declared that all their master requires of the Estates is the maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the obedience which they owe him as their sovereign. These two points being satisfied, he is ready to embrace them as his good and loyal subjects, and uphold them in the enjoyment of their privileges as in the days of the Emperor Charles V.

These conditions seem so reasonable that his Majesty would be glad to bring their effect to pass if the Estates and the Prince are willing to be content with them; as he prays and admonishes them to be before things grow to more bitterness and become more difficult to compose, as they undoubtedly will do if the war continues.

His Majesty has charged M. de Revers to beseech the Prince in his name to let him know as soon as possible his own and the States' decision, so as not to lose this good opportunity, and to consider that they are making war only to obtain this gift of peace and deliver themselves from oppression. It is offered them on the above-named conditions; and these having been obtained them through the intercession of his Majesty, they render him bound to maintain them in possession of the same. He implores them not to accept his offer of mediation unless they are resolved to observe inviolably what they are to pray his Majesty to promise for them.

M. de Revers will also tell the Prince that his Majesty has not thought good to express his pleasure to any but himself, that he may make such use of it as he thinks most expedient for the good of his country and his own interest.

He will warn him not lightly to trust the fine promises which may be made to him from divers quarters, but to consider that at the present day every man prefers his private profit to the duties of

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friendship and good neighbourship. If the war, which the provinces cannot long support, be continued he alone will be the one to earn hatred, illwill, and injury in his person and his goods, which would to his Majesty be most displeasing, even though it proceeded from his omission to profit by the opportunity to make himself secure and at ease for the rest of his life.

If the Prince makes it appear to M. de Revers that he is willing to hear of peace, and his Majesty goes on with the matter, since the ministers of the Catholic king have shown that they desire it, he is to send a blank passport from the Estates or whoever may be the right person, for whomsoever his Majesty may decide to send to them. Meanwhile he will stay with the Prince till further orders.

He is also charged to call upon the Princess of Orange and assure her that his Majesty will have her pension paid as soon as his affairs allow, being much displeased that he cannot satisfy her more promptly. It must be set down to his necessities, owing to the long continuance of the troubles.

M. de Revers will salute the Prince and Princess in the name of the Queen Mother, praying them to be assured of her continued good will, and to give no credence to those who would make them believe that she has been other than well-affectioned to them, and to believe that she is very glad to see that the king has so good a wish to bring about the peace; to which on her side she will use her efforts.—Paris, 2 June 1578. (Signed) Henry.

Copy in writing of L. Tomson, and endd. by him. Fr. 4½ pp. [Ibid. VII. 19.]

June 19. **28. DUKE of ANJOU to POULET.**

I have received yours of the 12th, and am glad to see the continuance of the goodwill which you have always shown me. I am much bounden to you, and hope to let you know that your labours have not been in vain, and how much they have profited to maintain a perfect friendship between the Queen your mistress and myself.

In pursuance of your advice I am writing to my Deputies in the Low Countries to confer with those whom her Majesty is sending; and shall be very glad if they can find some good and salutary expedient to put an end to the troubles of those countries and restore them to tranquillity. You will let me know by this bearer if you on your side propose to write to the Queen's ambassadors. I shall always be pleased to hear any news that you may impart to me; and be sure that will never employ yourself for any prince who will be better able, when occasion offers, to recognise your services, as the effect will testify more amply.—Alençon, 19 June 1578.

Enclosed in letter of the 23rd, No. 37. Copy. Endd. in Poulet's hand. Fr. 1 p. [France II. 56.]