

A.D. 1579.

May 14.

676. Copy and translation of a letter written to His Excellency by those of Flushing. 14 May 1579.

We have received your letter touching the differences among us and Fernand Pointz, together with the request presented by him to the Lords of the Queen of England's Council. We cannot be sufficiently surprised at the indiscreet, inopportune, and dishonest procedure of Pointz in this matter, considering that pursuant to your Excellency's letter of Aug. 13 we submitted to all reasonable conditions for the sake of agreement. For whereas your Excellency at Pointz's request dispatched the treasurer Taffin to Walcheren, to put an end to the difference, we sent our deputies to Middelburg, and after some communication had passed, finally remitted and submitted the difference to Taffin, treasurer Maumaker, and Master Peter de Rycke, councillor of Zealand, as neutral persons chosen by the parties. Whereupon, after divers conferences they got so far that the difference was settled, albeit greatly to our prejudice and to the advantage of the said Pointz; so that he has every right to be ashamed of not accepting and approving the agreement arrived at by the deputies, and still more with charging them with partiality. As may appear by the copy of the agreement that we send; which from respect for the gentlemen who were engaged upon it, we continue to approve. And considering that we have been ready to forward matters by all reasonable way conformally to your letters, and that Pointz will not listen to any reason or means of settlement, we rely entirely on the report which Taffin will make to your Excellency, begging you to hear him and interrogate him thereon the great wrong and superfluous expense which Pointz wants to inflict on us with extraordinary proceedings. We add that his claim is for the most part frivolous, and founded on untrue reasons, and so ought not to be heard by an extraordinary judge, and we doubt not that your Excellency will take it as such.

Copy. Fr. 1 p. [Hol. and Fl. XI. 115.]

May 15.

677. D. T. to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

I have already written to you by Captain Desme, thinking he would start before this messenger. I will explain the most part of it to him, that by one channel or the other you may be advertised of what is going, and I will add what I have learnt further. Instead of 10,000 men who it was said were being levied in Italy by 'Don Pedro,' brother of the Duke of Florence, they talk now of 20,000 Italians, 10,000 Germans, and 10,000 Spaniards, counting those who are now arrived with those who had arrived before. They are fitting out all the vessels, great and small, galleys and others, that there are in Italy, and making a great provision of biscuit. Those who hold the truce made by the Turk with the King of Spain as assured (of which, however, many doubt) conclude that this cannot be on account of Eastern Barbary, inasmuch as that recognises him, nor, as they think, of the Western part, the kingdoms of Fez and Morocco being his friends, and of the same religion. It is thought too that these preparations are too great for use entirely in Portugal and Flanders; nor can it be believed

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that they are for France, for many reasons too long to set out. So the inference is unavoidable that they are for England. If he attacks that, with such intelligence as he may be able to get, the King of Spain will at the same time forward his affairs in Portugal and Flanders; and it is to be feared that Duke Casimir will at the same time have to defend his own house. Even if he does not make provision for their great designs, it is certain that by beating or striking down that prince and princess, who are deemed the sole succour and support of those of the Religion, they will have to endure much alike in Flanders and in France, seeing that the King, averse as he is to war, will be dragged into it by force.—Paris, 15 May 1579.

Apparently the original, written on a half-sheet. Add. Fr. 1 p. [Holl. and Fl. XI. 116.]

May 17. **678.** DAVISON to WALSINGHAM.

By my last letter you might perceive that the cause of my stay depended upon the ship appointed to transport my charge, which could not come from 'Schuse' till within these three or four days, for want of wind. It is now arrived, and to-morrow is to take the parcels I have to transport, so that I hope to take my journey with the first fair wind, having now dispatched all my other business and taken my leave.—Antwerp, 17 May 1579.

Add. Endd. ½ p. [Holl. and Fl. XI. 117.]

May 18. **679.** The PRINCE OF ORANGE to the QUEEN.

Among the great benefits that you have done this country I esteem it not the least that you sent Mr Davison to the States. By his prudence, vigilance, and sincere affection to the furtherance of our affairs, we have received many good offices, nor has his service to your Majesty been forgotten. We cannot therefore but take much displeasure from his departure, especially at a moment when our affairs are in such perplexity as you will hear from him. Our only consolation, since it is your pleasure that he should return to England, is that we judge it to be for your service, which we would desire to advance by all means in our power, while at the same time we are persuaded that in recalling a person of his quality you will not fail to obtain his advice as to the means of succouring this country, which you have always had in special commendation.—Antwerp, 18 May 1579.

Add. Endd. by L. Tomson. Fr. 1 p. [Ibid. XI. 118.]

May 24. **680.** The MARQUIS OF HAVRECH to the QUEEN.

Your ambassador being about to return, I would not let slip the opportunity of saluting your Majesty and assuring you of the good and honourable manner in which he has comported himself in these countries. He has so conducted himself that the Estates generally and as individuals rest well satisfied with him. You will understand at length from him the state of affairs here. We are devoutly