

A.D. 1579.

town, they will admit any garrison that the States please ; but they do not wish to have the *religions vrede* in their town. Nor do those of Bois-le-duc, who are mutinous.

Any service I can do you here, I shall be happy to do.—Antwerp, 19 July 1579.

P.S.—My greeting to M. de Sidene [Sidney]. M. de Bours is very unwell just now at Mechlin, *pour avoir trop cour* (sic) *de postes avec sa nouvelle mariéc.*

Add. Fr. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pp. [*Holl. and Fl. XII. 14.*]

July 20. 16. The GOVERNOR and CORPORATION of MECHLIN to the PRINCE of ORANGE.

About six weeks ago events showed that those of Antwerp, the garrison of Vilvorde and Willebroek, and the admiral sent to those parts from your Excellency, treated us as sworn foes ; and that all our protestations and assurances to the contrary, to the point of sending hostages from the Corporation of this town (who under far-fetched pretexts have been ill-treated in a way unbecoming their quality) could not remove the impression wrongly conceived of us. We see no means of coming back to the good graces of Antwerp but by flinging ourselves into the abyss of disorder into which they have fallen, or by receiving into our city the wolves who are ready to raven on us. Preferring death to this, and seeing on the other side his Majesty opening to us his arms of clemency and kindness, with the offer of a secure peace, the sole condition being the observance of the Catholic religion and the obedience due to him, two points wherein we were born and to which we lately swore in the Pacification of Ghent, we have this day in a meeting of the Corporation of the town unanimously resolved to embrace his offer, and fall into line with those of Artois, Hainault, Lille, Douay and Orchies. Of this we would not fail to inform you, in order that you may kindly see that our hostages, men and women, are not maltreated when the rumour of it first reaches Antwerp. Those from Antwerp whom we have here will receive reciprocal treatment and shall be returned when ours are returned to us.

Copy. Endd. in Italian. Fr. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pp. [*Ibid. XII. 15.*]

17. *Another copy of the same. Fr.* 1 p. [*Ibid. XII. 15a.*]

18. *Another copy. Fr.* 1 p. [*Ibid. XII. 15b.*]

July 20. 19. Petition of JOACHIM FAGGOTT to the LORDS OF THE COUNCIL.

Whereas the King of Denmark addressed letters to the Queen for restitution of certain piracy committed in his streams upon certain merchants 'trading his country Island,' by a ship of Mr Henry Sackford, upon which you have not only written to the Judge of the Admiralty, but commanded him to examine the cause so that you might understand the truth of it, and certify you as to his