

A.D. 1581.

P.S.—Enclosed I send you copies of the aforesaid letters that Monsieur sent to the Prince and States, which I perceive do something trouble them; for a little thing makes them afraid here.

Add. Endd. 2½ pp. [*Holl. and Fl. XIV.* 98.]

Sept. 3.
M. & D. iv.
p. 230.

329. The PRINCE OF EPINOY to the PRINCE OF ORANGE.

I have certain news that 'le Château en Cambrésis' was taken last Thursday after dinner by an assault. It lasted from 10 in the morning till 3 after dinner, and everyone was cut to pieces. The enemy had gone with about 1,000 horse and 1,000 foot a league from Landrecies, skirting the forest, to render some help if it were possible, but they found some three soldiers escaped from the ramparts who assured them of the capture. This made them return incontinently to the suburb of le Quesnoy, and yesterday they all assembled in the suburbs of Valenciennes. The Prince of Parma is there in person, and all the chiefs, much cast down. The report goes that the said Prince was retiring to-day to Mons; also that they were striking their camp, and that M. de Montigny was to march with his regiment for Lille. The Germans refuse to come unless they are paid. I am also informed that the enemy have decided to come and look for our troops at Ronck, but I hope they will be on their guard.

The report went in the enemy's camp that his Highness was marching on Friday morning between Cambray and Arleux.

M. de Thiant is here, and we have decided to leave our troops still at Ronck for to-day and to-morrow, hoping in the meantime to have tidings of his Highness and of you; for necessarily they cannot stay longer, for the inconvenience they cause to those of Meenen. I beg you, therefore, to send me word speedily what I am to do with our troops; if you wish us to join with those of his Highness in case he sends for us or appears at some convenient point; or if you wish them to go and lodge at Warmarde or Kerckhove, to await the troops from Brabant. It certainly seems to me that it is a shame to delay so long. His Highness will have great reason to be dissatisfied on his coming into the country. I have assured him on the word of the Estates, as they desired me, that our troops were ready to join provided there was opportunity. Now that the enemy is getting frightened (*intimidé*), and that it only depends on his Highness to cross the Escarpe, we are not ready to join save with a very small force, which he will not look upon as any reinforcement; and it will be a perpetual disgrace for the Low Countries to receive him with so small an array. And I am sure that he will make haste to join us if necessary, if only you will please to let the two companies of Ghent and the Scots march, together with the money for my English, which will reinforce our troops a little.—Tournay, 3 Sept. 1581.

P.S.—I have taken good order that if the enemy turns his head our way, we may be informed in time. Meanwhile, I must say that to remain long in the place where our troops are is inconvenient to

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this town as well as to Meenen, since the villages all round bring provisions here daily. I have asked the Oudenarde people to send this by a mounted man, keeping the bearer from here with them, to have a quicker answer.

Copy. Encl. in No. 344. Endd. Fr. 3 pp. [Ibid. XIV. 99.]

Sept 4. **330.** WALSINGHAM to the DUKE OF ANJOU.

I see from your last letter that you are well satisfied with the means taken by the Queen my sovereign to assist you at this moment in this need, of which I advised you in my last. I dare to assure you that she does it with a very good will upon what she has heard of your state, and your fortunate beginning. I hope that half is by this time in your hands, having been handed to Lord Henry Seymour, who went on behalf of her Majesty to give it to you. As for the rest, which is all ready, it has been suggested to bank it here, the roads on the frontier not being too secure. However, to avoid delay, and not let it be known to the world, as also on account of the probable loss on it, I beg you to let me know if it would be to the purpose to send it to Abbeville or Amiens by various English messengers, who would come here without making any show. Then some person in your confidence might be found, a dweller in the town or otherwise, to receive it, and let you have it as it is brought. Upon your decision as to the place, the locality, and the name of the person to whom messengers should apply, I must at once let the Queen know, that things may be made to fit to your satisfaction. And in order that she may see your good acceptance of this favour, as also that you have in no way caused the delay in the progress of the league which was so well forward, I have sent her your letter, which I judge will be very acceptable. Meanwhile, awaiting the answer, we are quite useless and idle, save in enjoying (*nous traicter de*) the good cheer which the king makes us. Nor will I here forget to congratulate you on the fortunate issue of your actions, seeing that all goes according to your wishes, and as your friends desire.—Paris, 4 Sept. 1581.

Draft. Endd. by L. Tomson. Fr. 1 p. [France VI. 29.]

Sept. 7. **331.** The DUKE OF ANJOU to WALSINGHAM.

Besides the letter which I wrote you yesterday, having just received yours, from which I see more and more the effects of the good will of the Queen my good mistress and the continuance of the friendship I have always hoped for from you, I will tell you that this, the most remarkable obligation by which the Queen could bind me to her, has come so opportunely, that I hope soon to pay her the interest of this good succour by a piece of news of no less consequence than that which has come about, having in my hands the means of accomplishing what I promise. It would ill befit me to refuse the liberalities of so great a princess, especially since I would have nothing of which she may not dispose as if it were her