

132.

WILLIAM, PRINCE OF ORANGE¹,
to the **MINISTERS, ELDERS &c.** of the
NETHERLANDISH CHURCH in LONDON.

Ter Vere, Tuesday, 29 December 1573.

§ 1. *We think it unnecessary to tell you the present condition of this region, it being well known to everyone, however far away he may be situated. 2. We shall, therefore, merely explain how, like other towns, Ter Vere has suffered much on account of the costs which it has hitherto borne in behalf of the defence of the fatherland and itself, and that, through the death of many of its principal citizens and inhabitants, the others will not be able to bear such costs in future, without receiving assistance from those concerned in the common cause. 3. Hence we now despatch to England Jan Van Cuyck the bearer of this letter, with orders to demand, in our name, from the refugee communities in that country, the sum of two thousand Carolus guilders per month, which we on 25 October last granted to the inhabitants of the said town of Vere to be deducted from the general contribution. 4. We, therefore, request that you will believe the said Van Cuyck as you would ourselves, without pleading any unfounded excuses, which we shall not accept, and that, the sum being small, you will quit yourselves in this matter, in accordance with the good intentions which you have of advancing the word of God, the welfare of the fatherland and the inhabitants of Vere, whose burdens you are bound to share, considering how abundantly God blesses you by allowing you to live yonder in peace.*

Die Prince van Oraengien, Graue van Nassau etc.

Heere ende baron van Breda, van Diest etc.

Eersame wyse lieue besondere, Wy achten noodeloos vlieden ¹ alhier voor te houden die gestaltenisse ende jegenwoordighen staet van desen quaertiere, alsoo vlieden ende eenen ieghelycken, zoe wyt hy oock gheseten zy, zulcx kennelyck genoech is. Willen daeromme vlieden alleenlyck verclaeren, dat alsoo ² onder den anderen steden deser stadt vander Vere, ouermidts den costen die zy tot deffentie des vaderlandts, ende van haer-

¹ Sym. Ruytinx speaks of this Letter in his *Gheschiedenissen der Nederduytsche Natie in Engelant*, p. 99, and says that £110 was collected.

seluen tot noch toe heeft moeten draeghen, hebbende haer in als altyt behoorycken ghequeten, nyet alleenlyck zeer verachttert, maer oock by het ouerlyden van veele ende diuersche vanden principaelsten ende notabelsten bergheren² ende Innewoonderen der seluer stede, tot zeer cleynen ende gheringhen vermoeghen is ghecommen, dattet den anderen burgheren² ende Innewoonderen, nyet wel moeghelick en waere voortaeen alsulcke costen te lyden, sonder daertoe te hebben hulpe ende bystandt vanden ghenen die dese gemeyne saecke gelyckelyck met hem aengaet. Vuyt welcker oirsaecken, wy jegenwoordich naer Inghelandt affveerdighen onsen lieuen besunderen Jan van Cuyck³ brengher deser met Commissie om in onsen name vanden vuytghewekenen gemeynten aldaer tot behoeff assistentie ende verlichtinghe deser voornoemde stede vander Vere te voorderen de somme van Twee Duysent Carolus guldens ter maent, die wy den seluen Innewoonderen vander Vere geaccordeert hebben opten xxv^{en} dach der maent van Octobri lestleden om vande generaele contributie te neemen, soo als ghy al tselue breedere by hem verstaen zult. Begherende daeromme dat ghylieden,⁴ ende eenen ieghelycken van vlieden, den voorseiden Van Cuyck³ daerinne ghelooft als ons seluen, ende sonder eenighe ongefondeerde excusatien by te brengen, die wy gheenssins aenneemen en sullen, Vlieden hierinne (weesende toch soo cleynen somme) quytet, volghens die goede affectie die ghy hebt tot voorderinghe vande woirde Godts, ende tweluaeren vanden vaderlande, ende den goeden Innewoonderen vander Vere, wyens lasten ghylieden als lidtmaeten schuldich ende ghehouden zyt ghelycker handt te helpen draeghen, bedenckende hoe grootelick Godt Almach-tich zynen zeghen ouer vlieden seyndet, ende vlieden aldaer in ruste ende vrede laet leuen, ende dat ghylieden te dier oirsaecken

² So in MS.

³ Jan Van Cuyck (or Cuyk), Seigneur de Herpt or Erpt, already mentioned in note 1 to Letter No. 112, rendered great services to Prince William of Orange and the Netherlands, by persuading the towns of Flushing and Veere to throw off the Spanish yoke and to side with the Prince. He also endeavoured to provide these two places with a garrison, but as Veere was unable to contribute towards the expenses, the Prince sent Van Cuyck to England, where he collected among the Netherlandish communities, especially at Norwich, sufficient money to enlist soldiers, with whom he returned to Holland; see Van der Aa, *Biographisch Woordenboek*.

v geenssins en condt ontschuldighen, sonder in Godts oirdeel ende straffe te vallen.

Eersame wyse lieue besundere Onse Heere Godt zy met 5 v *lieden*. Gheschreuen Ter Vere, opten xxix^{en} Dach Decembris 1573.

Vlieder goede vrindt.
Guillaume de Nassau.

Addressed :

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AN Eersamen wysen onsen
lieuen besunderen, Ministers
Ouderlinghen, Diaecken
ende andere goede Christenen
vande vuytgewekene Nederlantsche
Kercke, Residerende jegenwoorden
binnen Londen.
In Ingelandt.

Endorsed :

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Ter Vere.
Prins van Orangien.
29 December 1573.

