

numbers and forces of the King of Spaine and where they be placed and used and what increase cometh to the same by the late arrivall of the shippes that came this present moneth from Spaine. And, touchinge those shippes, you shall declare to the Governor how by our order to our ports the same have been well used and relieved with victualls and all other necessaries.

(Record office, Cal., n° 424.)

MMDCCCCXCVI.

Instructions données à John Hastings.

(29 OCTOBRE 1575.)

Divers messages reçus soit du prince d'Orange, soit d'autres personnages. — Réponse à y faire. — Motifs pour ne pas traiter avec la France. — Appui peu solide. — Dangers auxquels ils exposeraient leurs libertés. — Messages adressés au roi d'Espagne et à Requesens pour la confirmation des privilèges. — Services déjà rendus par les Anglais au prince d'Orange. — Il faudra demander à quelles conditions il consentirait à traiter. — Le prince d'Orange n'a rien à attendre de la France; il ne peut oublier comment les Français ont abandonné son frère à Mons. — Henri III est hostile à la religion réformée. — La reine désire rétablir la paix; mais, si elle devait être entraînée à une guerre ouverte contre le roi d'Espagne, elle voudrait connaître d'abord les ressources dont le prince d'Orange dispose. — Réponse à faire à la communication secrète du comte de Cutenbourg. — La reine, avant de prendre quelque résolution, soit de prêter de l'argent, soit d'intervenir les armes à la main, désire connaître exactement les ressources de la Hollande et de la Zélande.

Instruction for John Hastings to be sent into Holland to the Prince of Orange.

After that you shalbe well informed both of our message sent to the King of Spayne by Sir Henry Cobham and also of the like which nowe M^r Robert Corbet shall have to the Gouvernor in the Lowe-Countries, and have also ben enformed of the messages lately sent hither from Holland, first from the Prince by meanes of one Calvart, a servaunt of the Princes abyding in London, and lastly of on other from three persons of the States of Holland by Edward Chester, without knowledge of the Prince (as Chester was informed), you shall spedely repaire with our letters of credit both to the Prince, and with others also to the States there. And you shall first deale with the Prince apart and inform him what we have understand by report of Calvart, the somme whereof was that he and the States were now occasioned to provide otherwise for themselves then heretofore they had done, which was to requier ayde of sum prince being a neighbor

to them, considering their unhabilitie to endure any longer the defence of their Estates against the forces of the King of Spayne, which did daily increase, and therefore he seemed to give us knowledge that, seeing they had not received heretofore any hope of our relief, they must accept the offer of Fraunce, if otherwise wee would not take them into our protection.

And, concerning their message, you shall saye that wee have good cause to allowe of this playne manner of dealing with us. And, where he pretendeth that he looketh not for help from us, because he saith that neither he, nor the States could have any resolute answer of comfort from us upon their offer sending, and therefor sheweth his disposition to be to take the offers of Fraunce, we are very sorry to thinke that his necessite shuld be such as is sayd to be, but most of all sorry to think that, either the Prince, being a man of such understaunding, or the States of the countree can think it good for them to put themselves into the power of Fraunce. And, for the first concerning his necessite that should compell him and the States to seke ayde of sum other prince, as we are sorry to hear thereof, so we also (as one that meaneth as well, or rather we may say better to the preservation of him and that countree then any other prince christene doth) are desyrous to understand the true estate of his whole cause, and we do require the Prince to communicate the same with us, which he may be sure (howsoever he may be abused otherwise) we both shall wishe it better and shall make it rather better than wors; and therefor we are desyrous to knowe the same and specially upon what points of difference the last treaty of Breda brake of, and how farr he and the States may yeld therein, and what are the forces of the King against him, and what are the forces of the Prince and his party, with such other questions to be answered mete to gyve knolledg of his libilitie to withstand his enemies. And you may say that, howsoever necessite may move him to seke sum relief, yet ther is no probable reason that can mainteyn it to be good for those countrees to be at the commaundment of Fraunce, no, nor at this time can it be thought that Fraunce can yeld them any help to purpos, the French King being lately so encombered by the separation of his brother the Duke of Alançon from him, with so great a party, as in no wise he can now attend this entreprise. And, if the Prince be born in hand that this departure of the Kings brother is a devised matter betwixt the King and him for the Kings advantage, whereby he may imagyn that the French King shuld spedely end his troubles and thereby be the more hable to relief the Prince, you may assure him that therein he is abused; for it is well known to be that the departure of the Duke of Aleanson was for the savety of his life and for the help of those which are oppressed, and that the Kings troubles thereby are greatly increasid. And, though the French King could now help the Prince, yet no man will think that he will so doo, but for his own profit and to make his gavn of them, so that, whilest those Estates should flee one daunger

of oppression by the Spanyards, they shuld both endure the forces of the King of Spayne and be subject and oppressed as greatly by the Frenche. And, where as now the quarell of the Prince and the countrie is for their liberties, they shuld, by seking ayd from Fraunce, be sure to leese all libertes in the end. And, though the Prince may imagin that the French King will make them offer of assurance of their libertees, as it is likely he will at the first, yet, how those people of Holland can or will endure the rule of Frenchmen, having of old tyme been in ennemity with them, it is good to be thought on aforehand that, upon the discontentment of the naturall people of the countre against the French, ther shall arrise a greater civill ware amongst themselves then is yet seen, to the total daunger of the countree. But you shall saye, consydering this cause is of so great weight as it is not sudenly to be determyned what were best for the Prince and those countrees, you shall saye wee having more care for the Princes preservation and the countrees than he conceaveth of us, and surely bearing more good will to the public weale of those countrees then any prince christenne doth, have thought it necessary to enter into a furdur consyderation of this cause. And, for that purpose that we might better conceave what weremeete to be don, we have sent you to him to conferre with him both to understand his intention and to shew him also our meaning. And so you shall begyn to shew him that we having this sommer had som doubt of the yssue of these warres, we did send our servaunt Sir H. Cobham to the King of Spayne with an earnest message to advyse the King to accorde with his subjects in reasonable sorte, and, by reason that he fell sicke on the waye and that without fayning, as we heare saye it hath been reported to the Prince, he could not make that haste that we desyred, so as we have not yet had any aunswere, but doo shortly look for som. Nevertheless, upon declaration to us of this last message by Calvert, the Prince's servaunt, we fynd it very necessary for us to seeke all other means to procure the preservation of those countrees in theyr auneyent liberties, bothe from the conquest of Spanyardes and from the possession of the Frenche. And therefore we have presently sent a gentleman of ours, of good credit and experyence, namyd Robert Corbet, to the Gouvernor for the Kinge to lye before him the danger of provoking of the States of Holland to relinquish that Kinges obedience, and to move him to have consyderation to prevent the same by more reasonable dealing with them. And to that end we have willed our servaunt to use very many urgent reason to move him to finish these troubles rather by treaty then by warre. And, besyde that, we have willed that he shall plainly understand that we have suche an interest for our own own cuntryes to have those Lowe-Countryes governyd peaceably after theyr auneyent manner and accordinge to the graunts made to them by the Kings progenitors, as we may not neglect any good meanes, as a neighbour to those countrees, to procure them peace and quietness, as heretofore they have had.

We have allso willed a reasonable aunswer to be made to the Governor, yf he

should object (as dyvers times both he in his tyme and the Duke of Alva before him hath don) that, yf we wold eyther gyve suche ayd to the King, as they pretend we are bound to doo by treaty in case of invasion of his countreys, or that we wold banysh all them that doo resort to our realm, namely them of the Religion and shutt our ports against all such as doo withstand the King's power in his countreys, the troubles wold soon be at an end, and the King should have perfect obedience of his subjects. And in deed you may tell the Prince that, though he seme doubtful that we doo not favor him, nor take regarde of his estate, yet, yf he wold consyder how long we have forborn to satisfye the King in this his request and many such lyke to have ayde of us (for which he hath great colour by force of the auneynt treatyes betwixt the Emperour Charles and our deer father King Henry the Eighth), he shuld fynde that we had, in denyeng the same, greatly offended the King, howsoever we knowe yt is for the tyme dissembled, and so thereby not neglected the Estate of the Prince and of these countreys now assayled by the Spanyards. And therefore, yf the Prince wold consyder how many ways we and our religion ar subject to the Spaniard's rancour and deaf malice, for the favours that his subjects, fleing into our relme, do many ways receave, he wold confesse that no prince, nor country is, nor hath bene so beneficall to him and his cause. And so, when you shall perceave him therein persuaidd as reason ought to doo, you shall let hym know that wee fynde the continuance of this warre for hym so chargeable and subjecte to alteration, and lykewise, though wee shuld for his releef doo any aete overt, wee cold not but looke thereby to enter into an open warre, whereof what might be the yssue is most uncertain, and yet most certain thereby our own countreys and people shuld be wasted, that, fyrst before we wold enter to make any resolution for any open ayding of him or for not ayding of him at all, wee are very desyrous to have the wholle cause better wayed, and to assaye, by all good means that we may, to procure an ende of these troubles by accorde. And for that purpose have wee fyrst sent into Spayne and now to the Commendador the Governor of the Lowe-Countreys to use all persuasions to that ende. And, to that ende allso, we sende to him (the Prince) you our servaunt to conferre with him and to see yf by treaty by our means the cause might be ended, and allso to inform him of the dangers to proceed with Fraunce, and of the uncertainties and inconvenyences that should followe for us to enter into an open quarrell and warre with the King of Spayne. And in all these you shall move hym both to hear you and utter hys mynde, pressyng hym in your conference to understand the lowest conditions that are by hym and the contry to be required.

For the manner to ende these troubles by treaty, you shall require to know the manner of their former proceedinges and whereupon the difficulties did rest, that wee, being advertised thereof, might doo our best to helpe them.

And, for the course of Fraunce, you may not only remember the unreasonableness of the tyme too looke for ayde of Fraunce or to expect a short ende thereof, but allso make hym understand how odious the nation of Fraunce will be to the people of Holland and the other Lowe-Countreys, and allso how dangerous it may be to hym for his owne estate, having ensamples of former misusages of divers noble men of Naples, and namely of the Princee of Salerne, when they had submytted them selves to the french government how they was neglected and left to extremities, notwithstanding golden offers in the begynning. And he must not forget the late stratageme of the French at Monts, where his brother Ludovic was abused by them to his greate danger; nether may he thinke that the Frenche King will of his owne disposition bear any favour, in ayding of them in Holland, to the contynuance of the Protestants' religion, consydering how he seeketh to subvert it in his owne countrye, even to the endangeringe of his crowne.

Now for the matter movid for no to receive him and the countreys of Holland and the into our protection, you maye say that can not be but with an occasion of open warr pre to ensue thereof betwixt us and the King of Spayne; and, percase allso in respect of religion, the French King, if he can master and subdew them of the Religion in France, may be induced to joyne with the King of Spayne agaynst us. And, when we consyder how uncertaine and costly that warre may be, yea how harde a matter in justice ... shall be afore God for us to take the possession of any of those countries whereto we have not made any title, we shall require the Princee that it may not be thought a lack of good will in us to the Princees' preservation and of the Estate of those countries, yf wee do fyrst all other means to doo them good and bryng some ende to their troubles, and to take some further tyme to be advised whe, we shall in suche sorte enter into a warre with the King of Spayne, and how the same may be maynteaned, which, yf we should at any time be movid or forced to doo, yet wisdom wold that aforehand we shuld forsee that the greate wealth of our subjects, that is at this daye in the King of Spaynes dominions and namelye in Spayne by waye of merchandise, shuld not be subiecte to the seasure of the said Kinge of Spayne. And therefore you shall conclude with the Princee not to conceave any manner of lack of favour towards him and the preservation of those countries in their ancient liberties, but that we doo differ some tymes from resolution ... to that which he hath demanded of us, untill we may both be better informed from thence of his estate and see some yssue of our other kynde of proceeding with the King or of our messadg now sent to the Governor, with whom we have willed our servaunt so earnestly to deale as to mak hym to thynk that we mean not to our pour to suffer the Prynce, nor his party in ther just causes, standyng only in defence of ther lyves and lefull liberties, to be vanquished.

And, for that Edward Chester cam, as he said, with a secret message from the Conte

of Collingbourg and twoo others of the States of Holland, whereof you are heere to be informyd, our meaning is that you shall also by the means of Edward Chester seeke to speake with them and give them to understand how well we lyke of theyr devotion rather towards us than towards Fraunce, whereof they may be assured they shall never repent them selves, but shall fynde us as carefull for them as we can be for any next to our own; for so we accompte of their neighbourhoode and of the auneyent naturall love betwixt our people and that nation as we cann, nor will not omyt any reasonable means to procure to them restitution of their auneyent libertyes. And you shall use the lyke reasons to them for the aunswering of their demands and offers, as you are instructed afore to use towards the Prince of Orange, altering suche parts thereof as you shall think meete for the diversyte of their persons. And, because we thynk you shall fynde them more unwilling to depend on the French than percase you shall fynde the Prynce of Orange, you shall doo your best to mayntayne them in that unwillingness¹.

And, because Edward Chester reported from them that they desyred an ayd of us of xij^m liv. a monith for a yeare, and from thence, after one yeares ayde gyven to them, we shuld receave the revenues and profitts of the countreys of Holland and Zealond, which was esteemyd to above one thousand poundes sterlinge, although wee wold not have you directly to deal therein with them in our name, yet of your self you may seem to use speeches thereof and say that, because you cannot tell how we may be movid with necessite of their estate at your returne to assente to their releefe, you wold not returne ignorant what to saye thereof, yf the matter shuld newly come into deliberation. And to that end you shall require to understand what are the accustomed yeerly revenues of those severall countreys in tyme of peace, and how now, in these tymes of troubles, the same or any parte are aunswered. And you may well object to them that, though they shuld be ayded from us with xij^m liv. or x^m liv. a month or with lesse for a yeere, yet it cannot be probable that at the end of the yeere the countrey shalbe hable to paye any thing of value to us, as well because of the former wasting of the countrey, as for that theyr own... must be also maynteyned and contynewid, so as you may as of your self object that there is lyklyhode how, after one yeere, no nor after ij or iij, we might have any recompence or help to maynteyne the warres that we shuld sustayn against the Spanyards for defending of those countreys, but must. . . , if we shuld tak the matter in hand, to provyde both for a warr for manny yeeres, and some

¹ Wilkes écrivait, le 29 août 1575, à lord Burleigh, que le prince d'Orange, pour s'assurer l'appui de l'Électeur-Palatin, lui avait fait espérer qu'on remettrait la Zélande entre ses mains. (*Record office, Cal.*, n° 510.)

place convenient for our marchants to resort unto duryng the troubles. And so our meaning is that you shuld, as for your selfe, use all manner of arguments by objections or questions to come to the particuler understanding of theyr estate, what hope were to be had for us to be benefyted by them or by retayning those countreys in our protection, that at your return we may not be ignorant of such things towchyng ther power as wer mete to be first known before any resolutions can be taken.

(Record office, Cal., n° 425.)

MMDCCCCXCVII.

John Hastings au comte de Leicester et à lord Burleigh.

(LONDRES, 29 OCTOBRE 1575.)

Il se rendra d'Harwich à la Brille. — Il leur adresse un livre sur la Hollande et la Zélande. — Éloge de M. Calvart.

Hering of some soldiours assemblid, as welle owte of the Dutche ehurehe, as by M^r Chester, tho no hundreds, yet lesse they or anie of them mought have faln down abowte the tyme of my goinge, and so speche risen thereof that other mought have brought, ether to Her Majeste or Your Honours, which I wold seke to avoide, I have therefore cutte of (for this present) that occasion and taken bothe therfore and for the better passage (as I hoope) the waie with my companie to Harwicke and soo to the Brille. And I have sent this booke to Your Honour, with desire that it maye please you to considre of th'artiele in the 196 leafe with suche as it shalle please you; and besides (if it soo like Your Honours) that it may please you for want of a better (fit for Her Majestic) to present the same to Her Highnesse to behold the townes and villages and the commodities and manner of government bothe of Hollande and Zeeland and the reste there sett furthe. And thus, with the wishe of happie successe unto your honourable and vertuouse desires, I humbly take my leave.

From my lodginge in London, the 29th of october 1575.

I have hadd some reference with M^r Calvart, and finde him (in my judgment) a propre man.

(Record office, Cal., n° 428.)
