

cruel Heart; and yet nevertheless ceaseth not to cause it to be publish'd by certain small slanderous Libels.

I have (my Lords) observ'd, that all this Accusation, or ill Speech rather, which followeth afterwards, is divided into two parts: the one touching that, which was joyn'd with the coming of the Duke of *Alva*, and which follow'd thereupon, and especially concerning that, which after my coming into *Holland* and *Zeland*, was executed by my Government, and my Lords the Estates of the said Countries: The other is that which hath fallen out, since that God opened your Eyes, by the means of the Pride and Outrages of the *Spaniards*; and that you publish'd them, and their Adherents, for Rebels and Enemies to the Country, that so you might at the last deliver this poor Country from this accursed Race. Wherefore I will follow the self-same Order. And first, I render Thanks to God, that even by the very Silence of mine Enemy, you (my Lords) do know,

*The Lord Prince was not so much as suspected by his Enemies to have touch'd or taken any of the Common Treasure.*

that I was not so much as suspected to have applied to mine own profit, so much as one only penny of the publick Coin: For tho in other things, as you have already begun to see, they have not stuck at it, to set out false Accusations, and to charge me with over-manifest Slanders. Seeing also, that they do not object unto me the least suspicion of Covetousness, they do sufficiently thereby declare, not only how free I am from that fault, but also, albeit they themselves be impudent, and in very deed my deadly Enemies; yet they durst never object against me this fault, wherewith commonly the Governors of Provinces are either wrongfully or rightly charg'd. But, I thank God, I have long time ago learn'd, that he who governeth and commandeth others, ought above all things to have clean hands, and even void, if it may be, of all suspicion; which was the Cause, that even from my Youth I unburdened my self of the Charge of the Treasures, which was most gladly receiv'd and accepted of others. And albeit (my Lords) that it was at no hand needful, that I should make mention of these things, whilst I speak unto you, who know that I never had the handling of one only penny of the publick Treasure: And as concerning this, that it hath pleas'd you to appoint me so much, as well in respect of my Estate, as in respect of the extraordinary Charges of the War, you know how little I have receiv'd thereof; and of the means, which yet I have, how I have therewithal maintain'd and upheld sundry great Charges, since that I entred into your Service: which I do

notwithstanding not impute to the want of your Good-will towards me, but to the condition of the time wherein we live. But since that by the secret Confession of mine Enemy, I may have such an advantage; I mind not to pass it over under Silence, to the end I might cause certain small Serpents that are amongst us, to understand, that they ought to be ashamed to have spread abroad, either against their Conscience, or else thorow a certain extream Folly and Madnes, that which the very Enemies, who have conspir'd against me and the Country, have as yet never been so impudent, as to object against me: perceiving indeed, that in propounding such a matter, the brightness of the Truth would discover the filthiness of their Life.

Seeing then, that they place me in so goodly a Field, as to declare not what I have done, but what the Estates of *Holland* and *Zeland* have done by my Aid and Service; I refuse not, even before you, my Lords, and before all the Men in the World, to enter into account with them: but also, since that you are the chiefest Judges of that which is done in this Country, it is more than reasonable that you should regard that which they have unjustly perform'd in all the other Provinces, whilst that my Lords, the Estates of *Holland*, *Zeland*, and I, did stand instead of Stays and Hinderances unto the Course of their Enterprizes and Artempts.

First they say, *That I practis'd to return into Holland and Zeland.* Tho it were so, what other thing did I, but that which my Duty requir'd? And if I did enter upon so good a Foundation, as I have heretofore laid out, into the Country with an Army; why should

*The Causes which mov'd the Lord Prince to come into Holland.*

I have made any stay, to enter into that, which was of mine own Government, and whereunto I was more sworn and bound, and wherein I hold the chiefest degrees of Honour amongst the Nobility? But so far off was I from attempting such matters, that, on the other side, I am ready to shew the Letters both of the principal Governors of the Towns, and of the principal Towns themselves, by the which I was call'd, for the Deliverance of the Country against the Tyranny of the *Spaniards*, and namely of the Duke of *Alva*. And as concerning the Promises that I made at my entrance thereinto; and namely, that they say that I promis'd the said Estates to maintain them, if the Duke of *Alva* would press them with the tenth and twentieth Penny, shall never be found true; but this rather, that I came the second time, openly and in Arms, into the Country, that I might deliver it from that Tyranny which then oppress'd them, not only in respect of the tenth Penny, but

but for a thousand other sorts of more than barbarous Cruelty, and especially for the great Slaughter that the Duke of *Alva* then made of the poor Inhabitants of the said Countries. And as concerning what they say, that the Ecclesiastical *Romanists* were persecuted by me, and driven from their Goods, and another Religion brought in; I need, my Lords, for this no other defence, but that which you your selves know thereof; to wit, that the whole Change which ensu'd thereupon, was rather a work of God, than of Men. You know how often I have been accus'd, that I did over-coldly set my self against the Adversaries; that I did suffer them too much; and that I should be the cause of the Ruin of the Country, because I was over-slow to chase them away, and to root them out. And, when the Question was, to send some of them packing, you know the Duties that I perform'd, to the end that every one might live in peace, and one of them with another. But the Estates, which at the first thought it fit and profitable for the preservation of the Country, that both the one and the other Religion should be tolerated; learned afterwards, by the Insolences, Attempts and Treasons of the Enemies which were mingled amongst us; that their Estate was in danger of an unavoidable Ruin, unless they hinder'd the Exercise of the *Roman* Religion: and they perceiv'd, that those that made profession thereof, at least the Priests, had taken an Oath to the Pope, (as they do in every place where they come) which they prefer'd before the Oath they had made to the Country; insomuch, that in the Assembly of the Estates at *Leyden*, as

*The Causes wherefore some of the Romish Church withdrew themselves out of Holland.*

also in the League of the Countries of *Holland* and *Zeland*, this Article was with one consent agreed upon. Neither could the Enemies be ignorant of these things, seeing that in the Treaty held at *Breda*, about the Question of Religion, (the Enemies there propounding this in their own behalf, that that change fell out by the guiding of certain particular persons) there was shew'd unto them the consent of all the Towns under their several Seals.

And now, I beseech you, what Bond could there remain unto me, seeing that they, unto whom I had made a promise, did not only discharge me thereof, but they themselves also did cut it in sunder, brake it, and made it of no force? And notwithstanding, I will leave it to the Judgment of the

*The Establishment of one only Religion in Holland and Zeland; and wherefore it was so done.*

Wise, whether therein I have done well or ill. This only I say, that when such things were propounded, I desir'd them, that they would

would not proceed so far, and therefore much more when they did execute and perform the same: whereof not only my Lords of *Holland* and *Zeland*, but also certain troublesome and way-ward persons amongst us ( who also have spread abroad against me, in strange Countries, their wicked Speeches ) will give me so good a Testimony, that I hope I shall not need any great Defence against such Accusations, which being by me deny'd as false ( for so they are indeed ) I fear not that they shall be able to yield any proof thereof; leaving it to you ( my Lords ) to judg how foolish such an Accusation is, which may be beaten back with a simple denial; and yet notwithstanding the greatest part of the goodly Colours, wherewith this Painter boasteth that he hath set me out, may be quite and clean defac'd with such a Sponge only. If they will alledg, that yet notwithstanding they who were driven out, have just occasion to complain, because that Promise was not kept with them: I answer, That albeit this is not directed against me; yet notwithstanding, for the Defence of the Estates of *Holland* and *Zeland*, I will say thus much, That this Complaint should have but a very ill Foundation, because it is not reasonable that any such People should enjoy a Privilege, by means of which they would deliver the Country into the Enemies hands. Their purpose was, to betray the Lives and the Goods of the Subjects; and not one, or two, or three Privileges only, but all the Franchises and Liberties, preserv'd Time out of mind, and from Age to Age, by our Predecessors and Ancestors.

They add withal, *That I have procur'd Liberty of Conscience.* If they understand thereby, that I have made an open way to such Impieties, as are commonly committed in the House of the Prince of *Parma*, where *Atheism*, and other Vertues of *Rome*, are counted but sport: I answer, That it is amongst the Heirs of the Lord *Peter Lewis*, where a Man must seek and find such Liberty, or rather unbridl'd Licence. But I will indeed confess, that the brightness of the Fires, wherein they have tormented so many poor Christians, was never delightful or pleasant to mine Eyes, as it hath rejoyc'd the sight of the Duke of *Alva* and the *Spaniards*: and that I have always been of this mind, to wish and procure what I could, that the Persecutions might cease in the *Low-Countries*.

I will moreover confess unto you, to the end that the Enemies may know, that they have to do with one that speaketh boldly, and without any Painting; to wit, that the King, when he departed out of *Zeland*, ( which was the last place that he left in this Country ) commanded me to put to death my godly and vertuous People that were suspected to be of

the Religion. Which thing I would not perform, but advertis'd them thereof, knowing indeed, that I could not do it with a good and safe Conscience, and that I was rather to obey God than Man. Let the *Spaniards* then speak what they themselves shall think good, I know that sundry Peoples and Nations, which are much better than they, who also have learn'd, that by Fire and Sword Men little or nothing prevail, would praise me, and approve my Fact.

But seeing that you (my Lords) together with the general Consent of the People, have since that time approv'd it, in condemning the Rigor of the Placards and Licenses, and in causing those cruel Executions to cease, I do no whit at all regard that which the *Spaniards* and their Adherents, do murmur and whisper concerning the same. Neither can I sufficiently wonder at their folly, when they are

*They that ill in-  
treated the Priests,  
were punish'd.*

not asham'd to object unto me the Murderings of the People of their Church; seeing, that not only they know my natural disposition to be altogether estrang'd from such

Violences; but also, that you and the whole World do very well know, that by Commandment and Appointment, some, in respect of such Outrages as these Men would charge me withal, were put to Death; and othersome, being of great Note, and noble Houses, were arrested by the principal Servants of my Household; and after that they had been kept Prisoners a long time, they were not deliver'd, but in respect of the House from whence they had the Honour to proceed and come; the long Imprisonment of their Persons being appointed unto them for the Punishment which they had deserv'd. But that which was done by my Charge and Appointment, is in such sort known to all the World, that they are not able, either to disguise or darken the same, only (as they have very well learn'd to speak Truth) that which I have done vertuously, they say, that I have feign'd that the thing did displease me. But who hath told them that I feign'd? Or who is he that hath reveal'd unto them so much of my Secrets? They see that which I have done; they cannot judg my Heart, neither is there any Man so malicious (except it be the Forger of this Writing, or some *Spaniard*) who ought not rather to give Judgment upon that which he seeth than upon that which he maliciously and wickedly suspecteth.

They cast also infinite Blames and Slanders upon our Religion, and they call us Hereticks: But it is such as a long time since they took upon them to prove it, and yet were never able to bring it to purpose or effect. And I say, that

they

these Injuries (being like unto the Words of Women, provok'd and chaf'd with Choler) do not deserve any Answer, much less that Beastliness, to say, that I never trusted any, either Priest or Briar, unless he were married, and that I inforc'd them to marry. For, who is it that knoweth not, that without choice or discretion, they cast at my Head every thing that they find in the way, so great is their Fury, and their Passion so outrageous and unmeasurable? And albeit that

these things were true, as indeed they are *Concerning the Marriage of Priests.*

not, neither yet reasonable (for we learn by our Religion, that Marriage ought to be free, and should not be either inforc'd or forbidden) yet so it is, that this fault should not be comparable with that Tyranny over Consciences, which hath forbidden Marriage to a great part of Christendom; against which Forbidding, not only the Eastern Churches oppos'd themselves, but also the Churches of Germany and France.

But that (my Lords) which is greatly to be esteem'd in this Proscription, so true and well-grounded, is this, *That the King commanded not the Duke of Alva to impose the tenth and twentieth Penny, without the consent of the People.* If then the Duke of Alva, in a matter of so great importance, and which was the cause of the Death and Destruction of so many Thousands of Men, hath pass'd his Commission; what Punishment follow'd thereof? The Duke of Alva, for having perform'd to his own Son this Duty, to wit, that he might marry his Cousin, leaving another, whom under the colour of Marriage accomplish'd he had abus'd (even as *Rigomes* had before perform'd for the King, as before hath been declar'd) was cast into Prison, and put out of favour, and should not as yet have been deliver'd, if in all *Spain* they had been able to have found a Tyrant more fit to exercise Tyranny upon

the poor *Portugals*, than he. He was then chastis'd for a small fault, and for such a great one he was honour'd, much made of,

and fill'd with Rewards: And he that would press the King with the Death of my Lords of *Egmont* and of *Horn*, would say as much, and disallow again the Duke of Alva for it. Is not this a good mean, think ye, to discharge himself of all faults? But let them take which part they will, either the King commanded it, and then he cannot avoid the name of a Tyrant, or else he commanded it not; and yet for all that, the name of a Tyrant shall remain unto him, because he did not chastise and correct him, who, of his own private Authority, had usurp'd such a Tyranny upon a frank and free People, whereby it appeareth that he is culpable thereof. And albeit, that I

## 500 *The Apology of the Prince of Orange.*

have always esteem'd the Duke of *Alva* for the Enemy of the Country, and as one who hath willingly bath'd himself in our Blood, and in the Blood of all Christians, carrying closely a *Turkish* Heart within him: Yet so it is, that I have known him too well, and have been too too much practis'd to believe this, that he should be so sottish, and so presumptuous, as to dare to attempt to lay upon the People an Imposition of such consequence, and to pursue it so long time, and that by such extraordinary, yea and altogether insupportable means, to the Country, without good and sufficient Commandment directed unto him therefore; and that not once only, but sundry times. I beseech you (my Lords) to weigh this well, whether he, that in his own proper and private name, durst condemn, or favour them that did condemn, the Burgomaster of *Amsterdam*, in five and twenty thousand Florins of Amercement, because he set himself against the tenth Penny, was not well assur'd, and had not sufficient discharge for the same from his Superior? Neither need we (my Lords) any other place than this, whereby to know the Frauds, Dissimulations and Crafts, wherewith the King hath so long a time led and deceiv'd us, and yet purposeth still to do, if we suffer him to wound us with the prick of his Tongue, or to astonish us with the Threatnings of his Armies. And because he will have the Bruit thereof sounded abroad, by reason of the Towns taken and surpriz'd in *Holland*; to wit, within these two, three, or four years, and that with more force than he hath fought against the *Turk* withal. I answer him, That, having the Advantages whereof he braggeth, he ought to consider, whether this tend not to his very great shame, that he is altogether driven out of that Country. And it standeth him not in any stead to alledg the Mutiny of the *Spaniards*: For a Governor, and especially such a one as had such great Means as he had doth sufficiently bewray his Insufficiency and Unworthiness to command, when he is not able by such means to keep in Obedience his own Soldiers. On the other side, in excusing himself so foolishly, he seeth, whether he will or no, that he is forc'd to confess, that I, and my Lords of *Holland* and *Zeland* having slender means, as namely but four or five thousand Men, have broken his Attempts, and caus'd him to consume threescore thousand.

And whilst (my Lords) he thus in the  
*The shameful Losses of the Kingdom of Tunis and the Goulette.* Country lost his Time, his Men and his Money; he lost likewise, within two Months the Kingdom of *Tunis* and the *Goulette*, with the greatest shame and confusion that ever any mighty Prince did, yea, tho he were dr  
ve

ven out of his own Land, albeit some would lay the fault hereof upon the Youth of *Don John*, and upon the Whoredom of the Cardinal. For whilst he did so ill imploy his Forces here amongst us, *Sinam Bascha* took from him that Kingdom, and that Fortres, which Men suppos'd could never have been taken: and this he did in the sight of *Spain* and of *Sicilia*, without that ever any of the King's side durst so much as shew his Head to fight against him, or only to turn him aside. And yet, if he had no regard to the good of Christendom (which indeed he never had, as witnesseth the painted League that he made, which also cost the *Venetians* so much) nor respect to his own Honour, at least the Memory and Name of the Emperor his Father (who did little or nothing regard all his notable Deeds and Feats of Arms, in respect of that Conquest) ought to have mov'd and thrust him forward with a noble and earnest desire, wisely to have maintain'd that which the Emperor his Father had so valiantly conquer'd for him and all Christendom. But the Rage and Fury to destroy us, which carried him away, took both his Eyes from him, that he could not see that Evil; and his Understanding also, that he could not discern it; he loving over-much to make proof, rather of his Weakness against his own proper People, than of his Forces against the common and universal Enemy of Christendom.

This (my Lords) is that which he objecteth against me, and which also fell out before our general Conjunction, and joining together. Whereunto (it may be) it was not altogether necessary to answer, saving that it is requisite, not only to satisfy you, but also to stop their mouths, and to make all the World to understand their Impudences and Slanders. For, if the Question were but of that which concerneth your selves, and those which heretofore were on our side, who have notwithstanding very evilly, and without any cause, withdrawn themselves from us: you, and those with you, have heretofore sufficiently declar'd, that you had a far better Opinion of me. For first, the Accord treated of by you, with me and my Lords of *Holland* and *Zeland* at *Gaunt*, hath sufficiently justified me; seeing that if you had suppos'd me to be such a one as this infamous Proscription describeth me, you neither would nor could have enter'd into Treaty with me: beside, so many honourable Embassys, as you since that time have sent unto me to *S. Gheertrudenburg*, and even yet to *Antwerp*, both to cause me to come into *Brabant*, and to cause me to come unto you to *Brussels*, that I might be assistant with you in Council; and also, that ye did honour me with the Title of Lieutenant-General: All these things, I say, do sufficiently declare, what

is the Opinion and Judgment that ye have had of all these false and frivolous Accusations; which thing alone, I suppose, to be over-sufficient and strong to confute them.

But let us now see how, before that time, they on their behalfs govern'd themselves, with what Pride, Insolence and Disdain of our whole Nation. I will not repeat the Perjuries and Deceits of the Dutchess, nor of the King, in the behalf of my Lords the Counts of *Egmont* and *Horne*, nor the Baits and Allurements which they prepar'd for me; nor yet generally that which fell out before the Coming of the Duke of *Alva*, but that only which was done afterwards, until the time of our general Conjunction and joyning together; to the end, that as the Remembrance of the Mischiefs and Grievs past, shall bring unto you Pleasure and Contentment, and the same (as I hope) unto me, who with some delight have aided you therein: So that by the same you will more and more strengthen your selves in this Resolution, which is both Holy, and worthy of Immortal Praise, and which you also have taken upon you; that is, to oppose and set your selves against the *Spaniards* and their Adherents. Now, as well the said Duke of *Alva*, as those that Commanded under him and after him, have sufficiently made us to understand, what was at all times the Counsel of *Spain*; to wit, to root us out, and to bring us into Bondage. For, as *Hannibal*, even when he was but nine years old, did swear by the Altar of his Goddess, that he would be all his life long an Enemy to the *Romans*: So was

*The insupportable Pride of the Duke of Alva, and other Officers being Spaniards.* this Duke of *Alva*, from his Childhood, nourish'd and brought up in an irreconcilable Hatred against this Country, which, by so much Blood as he hath spilt, could as yet never be satisfied; but so much the more hath he caus'd it to run out on every side,

in all the Towns of this Country; yea, so far forth, that he hath caus'd to be put to death (which thing also he himself bragged of) eighteen thousand poor innocent Men and more, and that by the hands of the Hangman or Tormentor; and yet for all that, that cruel Lust of his could never be satisfied. So that if any would know, what are the Privy-Councils of *Spain*, what is the King's Good-will, and how much he loveth us, he shall find it all decipher'd and set out in the bloody Deeds of the Duke of *Alva*, as if it were set out before his Eyes, and lively painted in a Table of Painter's work. For there hath not been any kind of Dissimulation, Treason and Unfaithfulness, which he hath not us'd, that he might bring under his Subjection and Service the principal Lords of this Country, and that by Offers, Promises, and new

Titles

Titles of Honour bestow'd upon them. But the good and vertuous People that he could get into his hands, he hath cruelly put to death, without any respect either to their Innocency, or to the Privileges of the Country; and yet nothing was done, but by the King's Commandment. He committed the like against the Citizens and good Merchants, so proudly treading under feet our antient Liberties and Freedoms, yea every thing that was remaining amongst us of the Glory of our Ancestors, that it seem'd that he thought, that you were at no hand worthy to be reckon'd in the number of Men.

And where is it, that we can have a more certain and plain proof, and that so open, that it is as it were in the sight and beholding of all *Christendom*, concerning this matter; and withal, of his insupportable Contempt and Disdain of all these Countrys; than in that proud, ambitious, profane, heathenish, and withal foolish setting up of his own Image, in the midst of the Citadel at *Antwerp*; going impudently upon the Bellies of the Noblemen, of the Estates, and of all the People of this Country? Was

*The profane and proud Erection of the Duke of Alva's Image in the midst of the late Citadel at Antwerp.*

not this, think you, a notable Monument of his Tyranny, and a Testimony of his Pride? What shall I need to speak of his Servants, and of all that Vermin which came out of *Spain*; who spake of us, not as it were of *Villacos* (as they use to say) or Villains, but even as it were of brute Beasts? You (my Lords) have, even as yet, your ears altogether beaten with such matters, and you are able to set out their Gestures, their Proceedings, their Words full of Boldness, of Pride, and of Contempt; also their unsupportable Acts, and how when they were within your Towns, with what Pride and Insolence they did command you. Wherefore if that be true which Wise Men report, that for the understanding of the natural Disposition of a Lord or Nobleman, Men must examine him by his Friends and Familiars; and for the knowledg of a Master, men must sift his Servants: you may (my Lords) by the Virtues of the Duke of *Alva*, his Master's principal Officer, and the Executor of all his Counsels, easily judg what good Affection and Will the King beareth you, who sent him to you to torment you: And also ye may know what ye ought to look for, unless ye provide for it in time, (as indeed ye ought) which thing also all the good People of this Land look for at your hands.

I will speak nothing of the Ravishings, Ransoms, and Exactions committed by the *Spaniards*, I will only stay my self

*The Assembly of the Estates General over refus'd.*

upon the principal Point. Ye could never yet tell how to obtain a free Assembly of the Estates General; your Enemy very well knowing, that to hinder the calling together and meeting of them, was indeed to cut off by the foot the Tree of your Privileges, and utterly to dry up the Spring of your Liberty. For to what end serveth it the People, to have Privileges in fair Parchment, kept up in a Coffer, if by means of the Estates those Privileges be not maintain'd, and so Men feel the Effects thereof?

*The King taketh a Dispensation from the Pope, for his Oath made at his joyful Entrance.*

And indeed long time before, the King himself had receiv'd a Dispensation from the Pope for the Oath which he had made unto you, to keep your Privileges. Wherein he did not only violate and break his Faith, but also did over-easily, yea very hurtfully believe foolish Counsellors; whereby he too manifestly declar'd how great his own Wisdom was. For might he not very well understand, that counting himself free from the Oath which he had made to you, you also were freed and quit from your Oath towards him? Infomuch that he minding to be unburden'd of his Oath towards you, you ow'd not unto him any Obedience and Subjection. That I may at this time say nothing, but leave it unto others more exercis'd in such matters than I, to handle this Question, whether the Pope may justly vaunt that he hath any such Power and Authority, yea or no; and whether any thing in the world shall remain certain and sure, if Oaths so solemnly made, may, under such a pretext and cloke, be violated and broken. At the same time, Marriages made out of the Country were wholly forbidden, and that which was never practis'd was prohibited, to wit, that Youth might not go out of the Country to study in any other

*The Schools of all the World forbid, save that of Rome only.*

School of the world, but in that of *Rome*; and condemning by that means all other Schools (which is an over-great Arrogance) they did condemn (so unwary were they) even those of the Jesuits, without thinking any whit of them: and so (which is indeed the worst) they open'd a way to very Barbarousness. For as the meeting together of all manner of Learned Men, hath brought forth unto us in this Country, sundry Persons well qualify'd, who have greatly ennobled these Provinces; so this Interdiction and Forbidding, could not but in process of time cause a more than *Turkish* Ignorance: that I may speak nothing of this, that by that means they would make this Country

subject

Subject to such Conditions as never were heard of. About the same time, the Council of *Trent* was publish'd; which Council hath seem'd, even to the *French-men* themselves, so unjust, that even unto this day it could not as yet be publish'd in the Kingdom of *France*.

*The publishing of the Council of Trent.*

A little while before this time, there was eagerly pursu'd, and at the last obtain'd, the installing of the new Bishops, which had been so long time before debated, by reason of the Inconveniencies which all wise People, and Lovers of the Country, and Haters of the tormenting of mens Consciences, did foresee would ensue thereupon. Which thing also I myself writ even unto the King; that I may say nothing of the Warnings which I gave to the Dutchess, sometime in open Council, and oftentimes elsewhere: All these their Purposes tending to no other end, but to set up the cruel Inquisition of *Spain*, and to establish the said Bishops, that they might serve instead of Inquisitors, Burners of mens Bodies, and Tyrants over their Consciences.

*Bishops newly made.*

It is true, that at this day they deny that ever they meant to bring in this cursed Inquisition; but if I bring forth unto them a man worthy of Credit, who was at that time a Prisoner of *France*, and who had the Rack twice shew'd him, to be tormented upon it, that he might confess who they were of the Lords of the said *France*, which were purpos'd to refuse the Inquisition: Will they say that he is a forg'd Witness, who yet notwithstanding is such a one, as they are not able to object any thing against him? And beside, if need were, I could find enough other plain and most manifest Proofs. There follow'd the most rigorous Placards and Licences, with express Commandment to abate nothing of the old Rigour.

*Placards and Licences renew'd.*

And verily the Bull granted by the Pope, for the Erection of the said Bishops, doth plainly carry with it this much, that every Bishop might give in his own Cathedral Church two Prebends: That every one of the Canons should be bound to assist him in the matter of the Inquisition: and that particularly two amongst them should actually and indeed be Inquisitors. And as Princes or Tyrants, which possess new Kingdoms or Lordships, do lay upon them a Tribute, in sign of their Victory; so the Duke of *Alva*, in testimony of his Conquest (for this was his common Speech, to wit, That these Countries appertain'd to the King, not in Title, or by Right or Patrimony, but as being conquer'd by Armour and Weapons) then I say, to the end he might  
make

make all the world to understand the Condition whereon he had made subject this Country, laid upon the People, by the Commandment of his Master, the perpetual Payment of the

*The Imposition of the tenth Penny, without the good Will and Consent of the Estates.*

tenth Penny, without the Consent of the Estates, without the Consent of the Towns and Provinces; and he resolv'd with himself and his People, to execute the same by Force. Inasmuch that when he understood that certain noble and courageous Hearts began to be moved, even at the very hour (ye see, my Lords, how great God's Providence is) when he receiv'd

News of the taking of the *Brill*; he was resolv'd to put to death the same night the principal Burgeffes and Citizens of *Bruxelles*, because they set themselves against this Imposition, which was violently publish'd against their Privileges. The Hangman, named *Mr. Charles*, was commanded to have in a readiness seventeen Halters, and certain Ladders of ten or twelve foot high; the Soldiers were up in Arms; *Don Frederic* came into the House of *Viglius* the President, to conclude the Speech of the Condemnation, when these happy News, against the good Burgeffes and Citizens of *Bruxelles*, arriv'd there. The Lieutenant of the *Amman* was one of them who should have been put to death, because he refus'd to execute those that set themselves against these Attempts; and indeed the Duke of *Alva* meant to keep the Promise with him, which

*\* To wit, Beard, a Form of swearing used amongst the Spaniards.*

but a little while before he had spoken unto him, saying, *By this \*, if you will not do it, I will cause you to be hang'd.* And moreover, *the Judges are Knaves; it is sufficient that which I command you.* And I confess, that at the same time I being again provok'd, as well by sundry good People, as by mine own Oath, came again the second time with an Army; of which Expedition I will say no more at this time, because there is none amongst you, but he knoweth what then were, and what yet at this present are the Events and Successes thereof. Now

*The second coming of the Ld Prince with an Army.*

then (my Lords) if it please you on the one side to consider that which the Duke of *Alva* did, before this War was begun; what just occasions he gave me, and the Estates of *Holland* and *Zeland*, to have recourse to Arms; and also that which he and the great Commandador did, until the day of the Revolting and Rebellion of the *Spaniards*: and on the other side, to weigh how since that time I have guided and govern'd my self, I refuse not to make ye Judges thereof, and to give ye leave to determine thereof, as ye your selves shall think

convenient and meet. But ye have already sufficiently declar'd, what ye think thereof, by the Pacification of *Ghent*, by the Expulsion of *Don John*, and by so many Acts and Testimonies, that I need not to have any more; yea even by this, that ye would not discharge me of my Offices and Charges, altho that very oftentimes I requested the same of you.

Now I will come to that, which in the second place they touch in their cruel Proscription, to wit, that which follow'd the time wherein the *Spaniards* were declar'd Rebels, and Enemies to the Country.

About that time (my Lords) there was treated and concluded the Pacification of *Ghent*, and that with so great Joy and Contentment of the People, yea and of all the Provinces, both generally and particularly, that no Man alive is able to remember the like.

Every one may remember the mutual Promises of Friendship, of Intelligences, partaking of Counsel, and such-like comprehended therein. But what? they themselves, who afterwards did make manifest the great and inveterate Hatred of their Heart, and were notwithstanding of the number of those, who treated of the same matter with my Deputies, and with them of *Holland* and *Zeland*: they, I say, in treating thereof, did overthwartly cast against it all the Hinderances that possibly they could, to cause it to die before it came to ripeness. Which thing, without controversy, they had obtain'd, if they had not fear'd to fall into danger, and if the People, and all the Provinces (who perceiv'd, and saw before-hand afar off, that this Pacification should be the Groundwork of their Liberty, and the Restitution of their antient Privileges) had not, as it were with one voice, inforc'd them to conclude the same. And because (my Lords) oftentimes in this execrable Proscription, and in their little, foolish, defamatory Libels, and secret Letters, they object unto me, that I have violated and broken the same; let us see how they, on their behalf, have maintain'd and kept it. It was no sooner confirm'd by Oath, but that the Lord of *Hausfi*, according to your Commandment, made sundry Voyages into *Zeland* to me, that he might obtain Succour of Men and Munitions of War, for the Siege of the Castle of *Ghent*, one of the Nests of the *Spanish* Cruelty; which thing he also obtain'd. But a certain Man, unworthy of his

*The Pacification of Ghent, and that the Enemies, both Spaniards and their Adherents, have broken the same against their Oath.*

*Ld of Hausfi sent to demand Succour of the Prince for the Siege of the Castle of Ghent.*

Stock,

Stock, and of his Country, could not contain himself, but at the same time began to vomit his Venom; charging with a Fault the said Lord, in recompence of so good a Service, and which was indeed the very Gate to the Liberty of the Country and Country of *Flanders*, and namesly of the Town of *Ghent*, which had been so long time before kept under by Tyranny. And it was a matter of no great account to the said *Sweueghen*, to the Count of *Reus*, *Mouqueron*, and others, that the *Spaniards*, yet all bloody with the Murder of *Antwerp*, and laden with the Spoils of good Burgeses and Citizens, should perform a like Execution in the Town of *Ghent*, as they had committed in the most renown'd Town of *Antwerp*: which thing also they had executed and perform'd (as the Letters of *Rhoda* and others do sufficiently prove) had not the said Succour hinder'd them. Mark, I pray you, how that even then when the Trumpet sounded to publish the Pacification of *Ghent*, these honest People began to break the same.

*The coming of Don John.*

Hereupon *Don John* arriv'd in these Countries; and albeit that mine Enemy would here play the Falsifier, and alter the matter, have not I yet the Letter sign'd with the King's own Hand, and with the Hand of one of the Secretaries of his Estate, and seal'd with the Seal of his Arms, which yield Testimony concerning the Charge and Commission given to *Don John*? Have not they been publish'd to all the world? Was there yet ever any *Spaniard* found, who durst contend against him? By those Letters we have known, That all the Difference between *Don John*, the Duke of *Alva*, and *Lewis* of *Requesens*, was this, that he was more young and more foolish than the others, and that he could not so long time hide his Venom, dissemble his Attempts, and withhold his greedy Hands from the Desire that he had to wet and wash them in our Blood. I will not (my Lords) make in this place any recital of these matters unto you, for they are known unto little Children, and all the Land is as it were water'd therewith. Albeit then that these things were set out before the whole world; and albeit that the Pacifiers knew and understood the same: notwithstanding the inveterate Hatred toward this poor People was so great (so much were they accustom'd to aid those that oppress'd your Privileges, and to subject themselves to Tyranny, was even become altogether natural unto them) that even like Horse-Leaches, foaming with Rage, they themselves came to lance themselves upon the Thorn of the bloody Heart of *Don John*; and agreed with him against mine Advice, and the Advice of them of *Holland* and *Zeland*, and against their own

Oath

Oath taken, against the Pacification of *Ghent*: and yet these Men dare object unto me the Pacification and mine Oath, as tho' those Bands had been prepar'd only to shackle me, and my Lords of *Holland* and *Zeland*; whilst that those good and loyal Peacemakers having broken all Bond of Laws, of Loyalty, and of Fidelity, might have liberty to perpetrate, commit, and do whatsoever their disloyal Heart should put them in mind of. They will say, that they caus'd *Don John* to promise that the *Spaniards* should depart; as tho' all our Agreement and League consisted in that only point. But before they had concluded with *Don John*, should not they have placed me in my Governments, and put me in possession of my Goods, and restor'd me my Son, who was one of the number of the Prisoners? Have they so much as only thought upon it, tho' sundry amongst them were kin unto him? No whit at all indeed! For they had a far other Mark, which thing they themselves did sufficiently declare by so many Consultations as they made, that they might at the length find out a way to oppress me, and to bring *Holland* and *Zeland* under subjection; knowing that at the same time, I yet only, and the Estates of the said Countrys, were they who did openly hinder their pernicious Purposes; which was, to enter in the place of the *Spaniards*, to exercise the like Tyranny that the *Spaniards* had done; but yet, as they thought, with more Power and Authority, and also that they might remain in their own Countrys with greater Impunity. Concerning this matter, I refer my self to the Instructions given to those who came to treat with me at *St. Geertrudenberghe*; which I will bring to light, if need be thereof.

At the same time, they sent to the Queen of *England*, that they might fill her with all false matters against me, and also move her to arm her self against Me and my Lords the Estates of *Holland* and *Zeland*: But the Knowledg that she had of the Truth, and the singular Wisdom wherewith she is endued, made her to take a clean contrary Resolution than that which they hoped for. To be short, they devis'd as much as they could, to execute and perform against us, the same Practices that the *Spaniards* had done; and this (my Lords) was the Observation of the Pacification of *Ghent*, that these Men used even from the beginning. And as concerning the *Spaniards*, which *Don John* told them he had sent away, they saw (at the least if they had any Understanding, tho' never so little, for they wanted not Advertisement and Intelligence) that some staid in *Luxemburg*, others in *Burgundy*, and others in *France*, under the Shadow of  
the

*The Spaniards  
licens'd by  
Don John to  
return.*

the Civil War, which was then rais'd up in *France*; looking only for their Watch-word, that they might return again in an instant, which they did. Beside this, they knew that Don John

*Fourteen thousand Lance-Knights left by Don John in Garison in the principal Towns.*

retain'd with him fourteen thousand *Germans*, of the old Soldiers, which he kept in garison in the principal Towns of the Country: that at *Malines* he treated with the said *Germans*: that he spake one thing to them, and another thing to you, my Lords: and did in the mean while take the Castle of *Antwerp* from the Power of the Duke of *Aerscht*, and of the Prince of *Chimay* his Son, and left it in the hands of *Treslon*.

They saw, I say, these things, and did notwithstanding aid and favour him therein; and yet they will say that they kept the Pacification of *Ghent*. For as concerning that which my Enemies say, that Don John sware unto it, I confess further, that the King himself promis'd it should be observ'd; which maketh him so much the more vanquish'd, for even at the same time he commanded Don John to break it, as appeareth by his own Letters.

*Don John swore to the Pacification of Ghent.*

And as concerning Don John, true it is, that he promis'd and sware to see the same perform'd, but that was with a Condition, which he spake of beforehand, in the presence even of some of your Deputies, which should be added, to wit, That it should be kept until such

time as he repented him thereof, which Condition fell out very quickly afterward. For this young Man supposing that he was at the top of his Business, and that he had in his hands (by reason of the Garisons of *Germans*, and sundry Traitors taking part with them) the best Towns, took (but yet not without doing an unworthy Injury to the Queen of *Navarre*) the Castle of *Namur*, a Place which he thought was very fit and necessary for the *Spaniards* to go and come. But so soon as the Castle of *Antwerp* was by composition yielded up unto you, he found himself far from his reckoning, which caus'd him at one time to lose many Friends, who began even then to change their Copy and Countenance; and Don John was thereby made so perplex'd and doubtful, that he had no other Succour but this, That having corrupted some of your own Deputies, he might protract the time, and busy you with a painted Hope of Peace. And I would to God, that at that time ye (my Lords) had not been hinder'd by these good Observers of the Pacification of *Ghent*, from believing my Counsel; for then, by a very small Army, we might have been quit and rid of Don John, of his *Spaniards* and Adherents, and

and of so many Miseries as since have ensu'd. I would then yet further know in this place (my Lords) whether Don *John* did then keep this Pacification, and his Union so solemnly sworn (as they say) which he had made with these Favourers of the *Spaniards*. And why shall he come to upbraid me with the Pacification of *Ghent*, who yet hath caus'd this to be declar'd unto us by the Lord of *Selles*, that he would not keep it? Shall he, to my hurt, enjoy a Privilege, which he himself renounceth and forsaketh? And when we have said all, it is not with him that I and the Estates of *Holland* and *Zeland* have contracted and accorded, but it is with you, my Lords. Now if after so many Breaches of the Pacification, and that in such sundry sorts; if after that, contrary to the said Pacification, they have destroy'd the Towns, where they could exercise their Tyrannous Government, and the best Burgeses and Citizens therein, alledging against them false and wicked things: If then, I say, after these things you (my Lords) have judg'd, that for your own Security you ought to enlarge some of the Articles, yea and if need were, that you were minded altogether to break, cut in sunder, and revoke them: who is he that could accuse you therefore, if ye have used that which was your own, as you your selves thought it convenient for your own Profit, unless it be he, who would use his own Oath as a Net and Snare to catch you in? For as concerning that which they say, that the Change hath been on my behalf, tho that were true, yet so it is, that I am no more bound in respect of the Contractors with me, seeing that they have so many ways violated and broken the Contract it self: and seeing that on your part it was thought convenient that the Change should be made, you have as much Authority and Power to dispose thereof, as a Lord hath Right in his own Inheritance: For the Pacification was yours, which also you might use at your own pleasure and discretion.

But I have so often, both by Word and Writing declar'd, nothing to be broken on our parts, that I shall not need to bestow any more time to set out the same unto you; only I will confess this, that they of *Holland* and *Zeland* were indeed forbidden to innovate or change any thing in that Country: but that the other Estates might not in their Provinces, by some lawful Condition, provide for their Safety, it will never be found that there was yet any such Obligation or Bond: Which thing may be manifestly seen and known, by the reading of the eleventh and twelfth Articles. And indeed upon the mak-

*Nothing was attempted by the Ld Prince, the Estates General, and those of the Religion, against the Pacification of Ghent.*

ing of the said Pacification, as one of those who were Deputies on our side, did declare to some one principal Person of the other side, that some such matter might fall out, and that therefore it was better to accord some Liberty for the poor Subjects of the Provinces, whose Causes they handled, and for whom they were to make agreement: so some other answer'd him again, that he needed not take care for such matters, and that those of *Brabant, Flanders,* and the other Countries, would not at any time demand a Change in the Matter of Religion. Now if they have been deceiv'd, what cause is there for them so furiously to direct themselves against me? I give them also the same Answer, in respect of the Change which fell out in certain Towns of my Government; for I can indeed assure men before God, that I have not given any Advice or Consent thereto; and that many things fell out there, as also in *Flanders,* which pleas'd me no whit at all. And I do defend it against them, that if there have been some Soldier-like Insolence and Violence, that that was nothing but sweet-smelling Roses, in respect of the intolerable Excesses which they have committed: and also at the least, that we have not had on our part any Infidelity, or Treason, or Intelligence with the *Spaniards,* as our Enemies on their part have had. For have not they, against their Faith and Promise, with an armed

*The beginning of the War of the Malecontents, even then when they were ready within two days to drive away Don John.*

Power begun a War, and assaulted their Confederates, when we were within two days ready to give battel to our Enemies? Have not they pursu'd the Execution of their Complot and Conspiracy against their Confederates, and declar'd their Defection and Falling away at that time, when the good Town of *Maestricht* was belieg'd? Was there ever any detestable and vile Act in the world, and is it not this? Even then, when you your selves look'd for the Forces and Powers of your Confederates, to succour a good Town besieg'd, with which they were entred into a sworn League; and of which they could not in any sort either wrongfully or rightfully complain: even then I say, they did not only desert and forsake you, but also made war upon you, and that as hotly and fiercely as they could.

The Histories report, that *Suffetius* was drawn in pieces with four Horses, because he stir'd not, but only look'd on, when *Tullus Hostilius,* his Confederate, fought the Field. Then what Gibbets and what Punishments can a Man devise, which might be sufficient to correct this Unfaithfulness and Treason?

And

And whose Treason? Those (my Lords) who before had laid their hands upon the Count of *The Continuance*  
*Mansfelt, Viglius, Fonc. Assnuille, Berti,* and o- *during the*  
thers of the Council of Estate, then when I *Siege of*  
was not so straitly bound unto them, as since I *Maestricht.*  
have been, and was not yet come into *Brabant* :

Those, I say, that by such laying hands upon them, had given all the world to understand, what Judgments they had concerning the King and his Council: leaving it to you (my Lords) to judg, what great Consideration there is in such People, who, whilst we make war, cannot foresee that they sharpen the Swords of those whom they had taken Prisoners, to take away their own Heads. They will say, that I have not shew'd my self to be an Enemy against them of our side, who have pass'd the Bounds set them. Verily I have not approv'd the Excess of any; but do they think that I am so un- wary, as that for to shew them a Pleasure, I will open a gap to the Destruction of the Country, and so make *Escovedo* a Prophet? Have they ever heard that a wise Father, for the Contentment of his Enemy, would seek the Ruin of his Children? Nay, rather this is his Duty, to correct the Faults, and in amending of them, to labour the Preservation of his Family and Household.

But *Bours, Montigni,* and others, do not they know the Duties that I have perform'd, to establish every thing in good order? Have they forgotten the Articles agreed upon, even such as they themselves demanded, and which since that time they have broken against their Oath? It is then Rage, Folly, Ambition, Hatred against the Religion, and Desire to govern, which hath carry'd away their Hearts, and tossed them as it were with madness; and which hath first moved them, and which since that time they have cover'd with the cloke of the Pacification of *Ghent*. For I know (my Lords) how hardly they were distress'd, and what labour they took to cloke and colour their Enterprize; and that a simple Captain, did in this Counsel open a Gap unto them, who was immediately follow'd.

I know, that sundry will think it a new and strange thing, that Children of so good a House, issuing from such Fathers, should so far forget themselves, as to heap up such Reproaches upon their own Stock; yea some, I think, will think it unbelievable, that ever there could be found such great Incon- clucy in them: and for my own part, I cannot chuse but be greatly sorry for it, by reason of the Good Will and Reve- rence which I have born to their Fathers, and the Desire which I have had to see them advanc'd in all Virtue, Honour,

and Reputation (which thing they might have attain'd, if they had only learn'd to forbear but a little while, and to bear some part of the Misery of their Country) and I would yet indeed desire, that they might become so wise, that by a good Repentance they might amend the Faults past. But to the end that I may not speak of sundry their particular Actions, which are not come to the sight of all the world, and are notwithstanding full of Inconstancy and Lightness; if we come to consider that which every one knoweth, and is laid out before the eyes of all the world, who is he that can sufficiently enough marvel at the Inconstancy and Vanity of their Resolutions? They served the Duke of *Alva*, and the great *Commandador*, as Servants or Pages, and they made war against me with all extremity. A little while afterwards they treated with me, and reconciled themselves; and then, lo, they were the *Spaniards* Enemies. Don *John* came, they follow him, they serve him, and they endeavour and practise my Destruction. Don *John* fail'd in his Enterprises concerning the Castle of *Antwerp*; incontinently they forsake him and call me: I was no sooner come, but contrary to their Oath, without communicating any thing thereof, either to you (my Lords) or to me, they call my Lord *Matthias* the Archduke. He being come, they saw that they could not come to their mark therefore they left him, and without advertising him any thing at all thereof, they go to seek my Lord the Duke of *Anjou*: They bring him in, and they promise him wonderful things. They saw that they could not bring him to this point, to make him a Captain against you (my Lords) and them of the Religion; then they left him, and join'd themselves to the Prince of *Parma*. Are there any Waves of the

\* *It is a part of the Sea, which flows seven times a day with such great force, that it carries Ships with full Sail against the Wind.*

Sea more inconstant? Is there any \* *Euripus* more uncertain than the Counsels of such People, who think that they are so highly set, so much lifted up, and so strengthened, that it should be lawful for them to play and dally in such sort with Princes of such Quality and Calling? If then they have done such things (as all the world knoweth they have) assure your selves, that there is nothing so light and vain, but they will enterprize and attempt it. And what could they have committed more grievous, than to have consented to this wicked Proscription, which was fram'd against his Head and Life who had help'd and heal'd theirs, and caus'd their Possession and Goods to be restor'd to the principal amongst them. And believe (my Lords) that this is not the last Prank they will

will play. For tho they should very quickly confess it (which thing I also desire) yet shall you find them more than ten times change their Horse and their Saddle, before this business be rid and ended.

As concerning that which they object against me, *That I caused my self by Force and Tumult to be chosen Governour of Brabant:* You (my Lords) do remember, that I never spake to you thereof, and that I have not any manner of way provok'd you thereto. And on the contrary side, you remember, I hope, the great withstanding that I used, and my plain Declarations and Speeches made to the contrary. And also

as concerning the Estate of Lieutenant General, that I meant to have had the Advice and Consent of the Governours which were in the Army, and which being very shortly after tumultuously and disorderly handled (I mind not now to tell by whose fault) was sent me, even

*The Estate of Governour of Brabant and Lieutenant General.*

as yet I have it, sign'd with their own hands. Now, if some of the People prefer'd and promoted this Choice, and yet I neither intreated nor provoked them thereto, shall I mislike them therefore? Nay, rather I am inforc'd to confess, that they were more wise, and better foreseeing to the Affairs of this Country, than I was at that time. For they well understood, that if they should leave the handling of the Matters, and the Administration of the publick Cause, in the hands of these Men, who were become *Spaniards* as it were, and so greatly affected towards them; it should be nothing else, but to build upon the Quicksand, a Groundwork not strong enough to set such a Frame and Building upon. And

it is as true that they say, That by the Tumults of *Ghent*, I was chosen Governour of *Flanders*; for it bewrayeth a very Ignorance of our Affairs: because that the four Members or Parts of that Province did chuse me, not once, but sundry times; and that not while the Tumults lasted, but since that the Matters were well quieted: yea, and they themselves have oftentimes sued for it, both to me and to you, and yet at this present I have not minded to accept it.

*The Government of Flanders offer'd to the Ld Prince; and yet not accepted.*

Also I do not (my Lords) think it reasonable to answer concerning the Means and Money levied by you; and which, according to your Advice, were govern'd under your Authority, by your Treasurers, Commissioners, and Receivers; without that I, or any of mine, did ever see penny thereof. But if any must

*Of the Monys levied by my Lords the Estates; and how they were distributed.*

be blam'd for it, it is the Enemy himself, who hath inforc'd you to use and seek means for your own Defence. And if he, to the end he may execute mischief, exercise Tyranny, and oppress your Liberty, do bestow so great and excessive Charge and Expences; why should not you bestow some Cost, to do good things, to repress the Tyrant, and to preserve your Privileges and your Liberty, which cannot be valued? And if the matter be, to give up all that we have, even to the uttermost Farthing, and to the last drop of our Blood; what should we do, but that whereunto we are holden and bound, and whereof we have in antient Histories so many goodly Examples, as well of Strangers, as of our brave and valiant Predecessors and Ancestors? But so far off it is, that we should leave off, that on the other side, seeing we see that which pricketh and provoketh them, that that is it which we should take unto our selves, thereby to endeavour and to encourage our selves to go forward. For to answer that which he saith, that I have committed to prison, and caus'd to be slain, some of them that gainsaid these Contributions; I suppose it is not needful to answer them to this, before you (my Lords) who know that these are manifest Slanders; and who know also, that I have been more blam'd for my over-great Gentleness and Patience, in tolerating sundry wicked Persons, who by their Subtilties and secret Practices, hinder our Affairs, than I have been accus'd of mine Enemy, for my Rigor and Hardnes. But if that which they object against me were true, there are sundry which speak at this day very high, and for whose sake the Threds and Snares have been cut: and I do notwithstanding as yet not repent me, that I have so used them, but will always rejoice, that I have had a Mind ready rather to receive Injury than do it; not doubting but that God, who is a just Judg, will bring upon the heads of these traitorous and disloyal People (who did eat Bread with us, and were Partakers of our Counsels, and notwithstanding at this present are in Counsel against us) the Reward and Recompence of their Wickedness, as already Vengeance pursueth them, with a perpetual Disquietude, Vexation, and tossing of Spirit.

*The Negotiation of the*  
*Ld of Seelles.* As concerning the Business or Matter which the Lord of *Seelles* took upon him to deal for, and which also was known to be full of Dissimulations and Deccits; to answer this, it appertaineth to you (my Lords) who have so wisely discover'd his Frauds, and who have caus'd him to understand, that those who have not seen *Spain*, are not for all that Beasts, as he and such as he are, do suppose: To you, I say, it be-  
longeth

longeth to answer this, because that this Accusation is directed against you. I confess, that I was of the same mind that you are, that he was no more to be trusted, than a Beguiler and Deceiver; and that he was to be taken, as an Instrument chosen to bring all to Division and Disorder: upon which point to resolve my self, no man help'd me, so much as he himself. For in that he told me, that I was so much in the King's Favour, as that there was no Lord in these Quarters of whom he had better opinion than of me, and whom he would employ so much as me: this made me more and more to think, that they would gladly have taken away my Head and Life, if I would have let it gone so very cheap, as this Fellow so greatly affected to the *Spaniards*, would have persuaded me.

I confess, I say, that I was of the self-same opinion that you were; and that you have most wisely resolv'd upon this point, to wit, that according to the Example of that wise Captain, you have stop'd your ears against the Sirens or Mermaids of *Spain*. But what say I, that I have been of this Advice? Those miserable Men who have consented to this cursed Proscription, have not they also resisted his Attempts as well as I? The very self-same Magistrates, who have caus'd this Proscription to be publish'd, have not they also rejected the Lord of *Seelles*, and all his trifling Tales? which is sufficient enough to answer that which they say, concerning *the changing of the Catholick Officers.*

*The changing of  
the Officers.*

And would to God that I had had power, that by the Headlongness or Hastiness of some, I had not been lett and hinder'd from procuring and performing such a Change in every place: for then there had not follow'd so great a Flood of Evils, as since we have seen, by reason of the Disjunction and Discord of the Provinces; which it is to be fear'd, lest it will daily more and more grow, to the general Destruction of the Country: at the least I hope, that the Provinces, who have so wickedly forsaken us, do not repent them of so great a Fault, they shall perceive that there was never any Man better corrected for wicked Counsel, than they that have first given the same. And concerning this point, I will not stick at it to answer this Slander, that I have, and that by my own private Authority, put into Charge and Office the said Officers; seeing that in every place, where I have been assistant in the changing of the Law, I have therein executed only that Charge and Office, which it hath pleas'd you to give me, and that as your Commissioner and Deputy, doing nothing therein against the Laws and Privileges.

vileges. Indeed I will confess, that I sought as much as possibly I could, to bring in and to place in these Offices virtuous People, honourable Personages, Men of good Conscience, and above all Lovers of the Country. But I know what wringeth and pricketh them, that is, that I did not willingly favour those, whom they had in their own Cord, People without Faith, without Godliness and Honesty towards their Country; yea, bloody People, and Slaves to execute their Tyranny. And this is that (my Lords) which these Men call Confusion, to wit, the good Rule and Government of our Commonwealth, according to our Laws, which also are as contrary to their barbarous Intents and Purposes, as the Day is to the Night. And indeed (my Lords) there is no great need to answer such Objections, seeing that our own Enemy doth sufficiently answer them for us. For who were these Officers, of whom they say, we have discharg'd and unburden'd our selves? *They were* (say they) *well affected to the King* Which is as much as if they should say, they were Enemies to the Country. And by this (my Lords) you understand, that it was very well done to change them in sundry Places and Quarters.

They upbraid me, *with the great Credit that I have among the People.* So far off is it, that I am asham'd of this, that I am very sorry that I have not as yet attain'd more; that

*Touching the Authority of the Ld Prince amongst the People.*

to say, that I have not well known how to persuade them to do that, which I have so oftentimes set before them, both by Word and Writing. For it is long time since, that I would, thro the Aid of God, have cleans'd the Country from these Filths of Spain. But if they be such as they say they are, and that I am such a one as they describe me to be (for to shew them some pleasure, I will easily grant them this point) they must of necessity confess, that their Tyrannies and Cruelties have been wonderfully excessive and outrageous in all sorts, in that they have incur'd such a general Hatred of all that People who before were so well affected, and have been so loyal and faithful to their Predecessors, and even unto them, before such Excesses were committed: and on the other side, that the People have willingly chosen me to be the Claimer and Challenger of their Liberty, what other thing can men say what shall the strange Nation speak, and what shall Posterity report, but this, That there was in me something worthy of Favour and Friendship, and in them somewhat worthy of extreme Hatred? I confess then, that I am, and that I will all my Life long be popular; that is to say, that I will pu

sue, maintain, and defend your Liberty and your Privileges. Thus you see, how these wise Brains are utterly void of common Wit and Understanding, and how that even then when they blame me, they praise me. True it is, that five or six ill-advis'd Persons gather'd together, being the Enemies of your Liberty, whose Counsels, Imaginations, and secret Thoughts, tend altogether to this, to seek out the ways to make you subject to their Tyranny, which should be more cruel, or at the least more unworthy and more slavish, than that of the *Spaniards* hath been: that these Men, I say, measure the Brain of all the world by the Ell of their own Understanding, and think that every one will condemn that as evil, which they judg to be so. But when the whole matter shall be weigh'd at the common Beam and Balance, then they shall find that they have greatly misreckon'd themselves. For he whom they judg unworthy to live, that he might profit the Commonwealth (for what other thing is the Commonwealth than the Good of all the People) they will make him, thro their own Folly, so much the more honour'd, as the People themselves will more esteem of him who maintaineth them, than of him who would oppress them.

I cannot also sufficiently wonder at that, which they themselves have here forgotten; yet sundry base, but wicked Writers, have lyingly put down, in their fond Libels of Defamation against me, to wit, *That I hate Nobility*. For shall I begin this Hatred at my self, my Kinsfolks, and Friends, who are (thanks be to God for it) all descended of a noble and famous Race, and that so antient, and of such great Riches and Dignities, that I am not afraid to affirm, that sundry of mine Enemies cannot with any good right prefer themselves before us, and few amongst them shall be found, that may be made equal with us? But Experience hath declar'd, whether I do not that which is in my power for the Advancement of Noblemen. Now, if I have long time ago foreseen, that certain ambitious Heads (who since that time have forsaken us) would go about to take possession of certain Governments and Charges, that so they might afterward abandon the Country, and falsify their Oath: if, I say, I have known their Lightness, Vanity and Inconstancy, and their Affection also tending to Tyranny, and therefore meant not to favour them, and so by that means I have help'd to preserve the better and the greater, and the more sound part of our Estate; I have not for all that hated and despis'd Nobility, but meant by good Counsel to prevent the Destruction of the Country, which

*The regard  
that the Lord  
Prince hath  
always had of  
Nobility.*

might have follow'd. If their Fathers, who were more wise, more valiant, and more vertuous than they, and with whom I have liv'd in such good Friendship; if, I say, they were now alive, they would die with grief, seeing their Stock so much degenerating from the Constancy and Vertue of their Ancestors, who liv'd so honourably and without reproach: If they saw, I say, that there is at this day no Country, wherein they are not counted for inconstant People, and great Coops-men: If they saw, even the *Spaniards* whom they serve, and the Cardinal (who is the Hinge, yea the Spindle whereupon the Mill turneth) to play with them, as it were with a Ball, to make them as it were little Children, to lead them by the nose like Beasts; and to uphold them, till it be time

*The Cardinal writeth to Morillon, that it is not yet time to cause Bourse and others to yield an account.*

to demand again their Pictures, Instruments, Tapestry, and other Movables, which they have taken away; and even so far, till they come to the point to be led to the slaughter, even as it appeareth by his own Letters written with his own Hand, which you (my Lords) have seen and do know. If they saw these things, I say, what would they then do?

And because that mine Enemy (as tho he did distrust his own Authority, and that he doubted whether the weight of his own Titles would be sufficient to intrap me) proceedeth yet further, and joineth the Emperor's Authority to them, and the Credit

*The Treaty of Cologn.*

also of certain of my Lords the Ecclesiastical Electors; saying, *That they had propounded such reasonable Articles, as every man of good Judgment would deem them to be such*: he knew not (in a word, my Lords) to speak more than you. What, say I you? Nay, than all the Inhabitants of these Countrys, who did with one voice refuse the said Articles, as impertinent, captious, and unreasonable, being without Judgment, and void of Reason. But whom shall they be able to persuade, that a People beaten with such long War (which cannot be without a million of Inconveniencies) would refuse a Peace, if it were reasonable? Or that good, yea very good Subjects, and suffering very much, would refuse to agree with their Superior, except it be, when they see that such Agreements are Baits to catch them? Such a Peace is worse than War, and such sweet Hony of the Tongue is more to be doubted than the steely Edg of Swords. It may be, that the Emperor, who thinketh such a Condition and State to be fit in his own Lands that come to him by Patrimony, holdeth an opinion that it should be likewise proper and fit for us here. The Emperor

was advertis'd of our State by our Enemies, and by the Traitors which were amongst us ; who also under the colour of an Embassy to *Colen*, assay'd to destroy all our Matters. The Emperor inform'd other Princes, who trusted to his Report, thinking that that which came from this part, was an Oracle.

But you ( my Lords ) who know the depth of the State of these Countries, the Commodities or Discommodities, the true Causes of the upholding, or of the ruin thereof ; who have also much to lose therein ; who also are bound by all Laws to the Preservation thereof, have otherwise judg'd of those Articles : All the People was ask'd their Advice therein ; and they did all, with one Consent, reject those Conditions as over-unreasonable : and this was done, not in one Town only, but in all. True it is, that we besought the Emperor's Majesty, the *French King*, the *Queen of England*, and the *King of Portugal*, to intreat for us, that a good Peace might be granted us : but to take that, as tho we had submitted our selves unto them, we suppose not that any Wise man would so think.

And as concerning *that forbidding, which they say was made, concerning the Publication of the said Articles* : Your Patience and Gentleness ought greatly to be prais'd, when you did not openly and for an Example cause such to be punish'd, who were so rash as to publish the same without your leave : and so far off is it, that we fear'd the communicating, divulging, and publishing of them, that on the contrary side, we caus'd them to be printed, with the Declarations of their insufficiency, and they were sent thorow all the Provinces and Towns, that they might be deliberated upon, and that the Advice and Resolution of all might be had. But there is great difference between a thing communicated in order, by the way of Right, and by the Authority of them, which have power so to do : and between this, that certain little Scouts should privily cast amongst the People, certain little Pamphlets, as some of them which were sent to *Colen* about your Service, caus'd under-hand, and closely to pass forth those things which they had negotiated, and treated of with the Enemy, wherein they betray'd both you and the Country, as more largely appeareth by their own Letters ; whereof I will not speak any further, because that all is set abroad, and brought to every man's sight.

*The Lord Prince hinder'd not the Communicating of the Articles of Colen to the People.*

They

*The Union of the Provinces made at the time of the separation of Artois and Haynault.*

They think the Union of the Provinces, made at *Utrecht*, to be wonderfully wicked and evil. And why so? Because that all that which is good for us, is evil for them; and that which is healthful for us, is deadly for them. They had set all their hope upon a Discord and Disagreement; and they had provok'd thereto some of the Provinces, who have had as many Deliberations and Counsels, as there are months in a year: besides, they had at their Commandment certain pestilent Fellows amongst us. What Remedy then could a Man devise better against Dissension than Union? And what Counterpoison more certain against their Venom of Discord, than Concord? By means whereof, their Purposes, their Treacheries, their Night-Counsels, their Secret Intelligences, were all at one time scatter'd abroad; God (who is the God of Peace and Concord) declaring thereby how much he hateth such deceitful Tongues, and how he can easily overthrow such false and abominable Enterprizes.

You see (my Lords) that I give them a fair and large Field to cry out against me, and to scorn at me. I confess unto them, that I have procur'd the Union; that I have advanc'd and promoted the same; that I have endeavour'd to maintain it; and I tell you (my Lords) yet, and I speak it very plainly, and loud, that I like it well, that so not only they, but also all *Europe* should understand it. Maintain your Union; keep your Union, but do it, but do it indeed (my Lords) that so you may execute, not in Words, nor by Writing only, but in Effect also, that which your sheaf of Arrows, tied with one Band only, doth mean; which Sheaf you bear in your Seal. Let them go now and accuse me, that I have brought all to confusion when I procur'd the Union; for the doing of which matter, I will never blush. For if under the shadow of a Peace, they would bring forth unto us a Division; if they would assemble themselves, one while at *Arras*, another while at *Mons*, giving us always fair words; and that to this end, that they might sunder themselves from us, and so draw by their Cords unto themselves, light-headed Fellows like unto themselves: Wherefore should it not be lawful for us, on our own behalfs, to join and tie our selves together? Unless (as it may be) they think that they are permitted to do Evil, and to abandon the Country: And when, I pray you? Even when *Maestricht* was besieg'd (Will not ye, O ye poor People, feel, when ye shall read these things, the hot Iron which shall burn your Conscience?) and that it was not lawful for us then to do good, and to heal the Country. Let us then here (my Lords)

learn

learn that which is profitable and necessary for us to learn; and let us learn it of the greatest Enemy that ever the Country had, yea of the greatest Tyrant of the whole Earth.

They object unto me afterwards a horrible Crime, and worthy forsooth of this more great Proscription, than that which was pronounc'd by *Sylla* and *Carbo*; that is, *that I departed not out of Antwerp for two years space, and that I went to Utrecht.* A Man may easily see, that they know very well what I do; as tho, that to their very great sorrow and grief, I had not in those two years space travell'd twice into *Flanders*, where by the Aid of the four Members or Parts of that Province, I plac'd better Order in the said Country, than they would or wish'd. But go to; let us grant that I did not for two years space together go out of *Antwerp*: Was not this a great fault to be always nigh unto you, that I might the better serve you in every thing, which it pleas'd you to command me? But I went to *Utrecht*; behold (my Lords) the Evil; behold the Boil or Sore, for this is the Voyage that woundeth them, even to the Heart. They had before-hand so wisely purpos'd their Matters: they had laid so sure a Foundation for their Affairs and Business: they pleas'd themselves so much therein: they writ thereof to their Friends: they held in their hands so many Countries and Governments: they had written so many Letters; and had us'd so many Hirings, secret Inticements, and open Practices, as they thought all to be sure their own; and yet I coming only to shew my self at *Utrecht*, with the good Assistance and Counsel of my Lords, the Deputies of the Provinces; behold that great Mist or Fog was vanish'd away; so many Castles as they had reserv'd for their Tyranny, were beaten down; and so many of our own Towns assur'd to us; they having for all, no other thing left unto them, but one only Town of Importance, wherein was the Captain of the Enterprize: Which Town, notwithstanding he knew not how to subject to his Command, but by an abominable Murder of one whom he call'd his Father; who the Evening before had sat at his Table, he, as a *Judas*, dealing with him under a false Kiss. And this (my Lords) is the Cause that maketh them cry so loud, yea, this is the *Helena* for which they fight.

*Concerning the Voyage of the Lord Prince into Overijssel, An, 1580.*

And as concerning that which they object against me, *that I have driven out some of the Ecclesiastical Persons or Church-men*; you (my Lords) know that this is not true. But when their Captain, who is in *Groningen*, had taken Prisoners some of the Religion, and

*Touching the Priests driven out of the Country of Friesland.*

§24 *The Apology of the Prince of Orange.*

had murder'd othersome; yea, the very Burgomaster, and all this, contrary unto his Oath: having also before-time brought in, and sworn unto, the New Religion (as they call it) and having solemnly, and that with his Oath, and his Sign, and his Seal confirm'd the Union of *Utrecht*. All these things consider'd, who is he that will think it strange, if those on our side, meant what they could, on their own parts to assure themselves, seeing that they saw the Enemies, without any reverence to their Oath taken, to tread under their feet all holy and sacred Things, and with such a perpetual Reproach to them and their Race, to have violated and broken whatsoever Justice and Equity doth as yet remain in the World? And this we may say at the least, that no Man can justly charge us, that in the midst of those Troubles, which our Enemies themselves have stir'd up, that ever any of our side proceeded or came to such a heap of Injustice, as to wet their hands in the Blood of those that were confederate to them, or of those which stay'd themselves upon their Fidelities: which thing their Captains have done, yea, and that with their own hands.

*Concerning certain Noblemen that departed out of Friesland.*

Concerning the Nobles, which he saith, have withdrawn themselves out of the Country; who is he which ever drove out so much as one of them? But if the Terrors of their own Consciences have pursu'd them, and

that they have been vex'd by their own feeling, which (as it were infernal and hellish Furies) hath chas'd them from place to place, who ought to be accus'd therefore, but only they themselves, who secretly, disloyally and unfaithfully have practis'd the Destruction of their own Country? And would to God that they had sooner felt this burden, and that they which remain, and are overtaken with the like madness, might follow them even at the heels; so should they deliver us from great Travel, and the Commonwealth from Fear, lest some one time or other they should execute their pernicious Purposes.

*The roundness and plainness of the Ld Prince.*

It is a ridiculous and fond thing, that they call me Hypocrite, who never, in respect of them, have us'd any Dissimulation. For while I was their Friend, I have freely foretold them, that they twisted the Thread of their own Destruction, whilst that they attempted and took these barbarous ways of persecuting. And if their Rage and unmeasurable Heat, joyn'd with a contempt of us, had not hinder'd them from following my Counsel, they had not been brought to that State, in which they are at this present. When

I was their Adversary and Enemy for your Liberty, I know not what Hypocrisy they have found in me, unless they will call this Hypocrisy, to make open War upon them, to take Towns from them, to drive them out of the Country; and without dissembling, to do against them whatsoever the Law of War suffer'd me. But, if it please you (my Lords) once again to read my Defence, which I publish'd three years ago, you shall see there the Letters of a King, who is a Deceiver and an Hypocrite, and who thought to catch me then in the Snare of his sweet and deceivable Letters, as he supposeth at this present to astonish me with his Threats and Thunders of Words: But, thanks be to God, I have a Counterpoison against both the one and the other Venom.

They proceed afterwards with a great heap of foolish Words to amplify this matter, *that I stay and ground my self upon a certain Diffidence and Distrust.* Tho I did so, should I be for all that, like unto *Cain* and *Judas*,

*The Lord Prince accus'd of Diffidence or Distrust.*

as he accuseth me? No verily: For it is one thing to despair of the Promises, and of the Grace of God, who cannot lie; and another thing not to believe the Words of a subtle and deceitful Man, who keepeth not Faith or Loyalty, as the poor *Moors* of *Granada* may speak too much thereof: And also, as the Death of the Lords, the Counts of *Egmont* and *Horne*, of blessed Memory, do give sufficient proof thereof. But if these good Divines, such as the Cardinal is (who is one of the Foundations of his Church) had thorowly sounded for the true and nigh Cause of the Ruin and Fall of *Judas* and *Cain*, they should have found, that it was Despair, to which by the Grace of God I have not been brought, and I hope never shall be. On the other side, if Men would look upon the monstrous and thundring Speeches which are us'd, in this not Barbarous only, but more than Turkish Proscription: shall they not find therein the very Stile of desperate persons, such as we hear the Poets use, when they bring in furious and mad Men? They then have the fear'd Conscience of *Judas*, the astonish'd Conscience of *Cain*, and the reprov'd Conscience of *Saul*. You see notwithstanding (my Lords) the great Wisdom of these Wise Heads: Diffidence or Distrust, say they, is a common thing to all wicked persons. But I speak unto thee (O Cardinal) who hast spent so much time in the Schools; and I bid thee tell me, whether thou call not this Learning, to wit, to be from a man's Youth instructed to lie and deceive? I demand then of thee, what thou wilt answer to the most strong and sententious of all Orators, and to the greatest Lover of his Country, who saith (as I have understood it from my Youth

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by all learned Men ) that the greatest and surest Fortress that a free People can have against a Tyrant, is Diffidence and Distrust? And this Speech was directed against one call'd *Philip*, who had learn'd but a little Tyranny, in respect of thy Lord *Philip*, who exceedeth all other Tyrants, and for whom no Oration pronounc'd against *Philip* is sufficiently worthy, no not that, which for the Excellency of it is call'd Divine: I know thou wilt advise and take counsel concerning this matter, and in the mean while I will speak, I will write, and I will cause to be ingrav'd in every place this notable Sentence, worthy of eternal Remembrance: And would to God that I might be better believ'd, than that good Orator was amongst his People, who suffering themselves to be busied and abus'd, by People like unto thy self, and other such wretched workers of Confusion (which are at thy Command, and have set on Sale their Tongues and Pens) were at the last snar'd, and utterly brought to Confusion. But I hope (my Lords) better things of your Constancy and Courage.

And as good Orators do always keep towards the end some strong and piercing Reason; and as good Captains, leave their best Soldiers in the last Ranks; so these skilful and so much exercis'd Men, come at the last to entangle and snare me with the weight of a great and grievous Reproach. *They have offer'd me (they say) great Commodities, to the end that I might depart to the place where I was born, where every one ought to desire most to live, to the which I meant not to consent.* What could they say (my Lords) which might make more for me than this? Consider, I pray you, their folly, or their shamefulness. For this must needs be, either that they speak shamelessly, or else that they are so void of good understanding, that they praise me, when they think to blame me. *It is a pleasant thing for every one to live in his own Country: Wherefore then doth this cursed Race of Spaniards go from Country to Country, to torment and to trouble all the World? But if, in respect of so many Bonds, as I am bound unto you by, I prefer your Service (as I ought) before the Country wherein I was born: Am I therefore to be counted a Traitor, and a wicked Man, and the publick Plague of the World? And yet notwithstanding you know, that ever since I was eleven or twelve years old, I have been nourish'd and brought up amongst you, and not elsewhere, insomuch that this Country is become as it were my natural Country. If then they have made me sundry Promises; if they have offer'd me (as they say) great Commodities, and I have notwithstanding refus'd*

the same; what can they condemn in me, except it be my Constancy and Fidelity towards God and the Country, which I have prefer'd before all the Goods in the World? Think not (my Lords) that I love to be so continually occupy'd in Travel and Labour, or like to hear so many wicked Speeches and Slanders on the behalf of mine Adversaries; and (which is more) that I would hear them of them that ought to be my Friends, and are bound unto me; or that I take delight to be so long time depriv'd of my Goods; to see my Son so long kept in cruel Prison; to behold my self charg'd with such infinite Debts, and yet should be able to put an end to so great Difficulties and Distresses, and would not; or that I should not be like unto other Men of the Earth, who all prefer Quietness before Travel, and Prosperity before Affliction. But what? If I cannot obtain such Blessings, and so blessed a condition without betraying you, without forsaking you, without giving you over (as much as might be) for a Prey into the Teeth of these bloody Wolves: Let the rest of the World pardon me (for I know that you approve me, and that I need no excuse before you) if I will not, either for Goods, or for Life, or for Wife, or for Children, mingle in my Drink one only drop of the Poison of Treason. But so long as it shall please God to give me any drop of Blood, one penyworth of my Goods, any Understanding, Industry, Credit and Authority, how small soever it be; I will imploy, I will dedicate, and I will consecrate the same wholly unto your Service. Notwithstanding, seeing they upbraid me with such things, I will yet tell you (my Lords) that they have not done any such thing, without borrowing somewhat of the Truth, and going beyond it also, according to their good Custom. For such Offers as they speak of, were as yet never made me; not but that I have been well and surely advertis'd, that I could not demand any thing in respect of mine own particular, but that they would yield the same unto me; that they would promise to set my Son at liberty; to leave him all my Estates; to assign unto me in *Germany* so much Goods as I have here, as well in respect of that which I possess, as of that which is held from me; to discharge me of my Debts, which are very great, and to give me in ready Com a Million of Money, and good Assurances for all these things.

These be (my Lords) the goodly Offers which have easily turn'd them aside, which are departed away from us. But so far off is it, that such Conditions were offer'd unto me, that on the other side, they never knew, either by the Letters of the Emperor's Ambassador, or by his secret Practices with some of my Servants, and sundry of my nearest Kinsfolks, or by  
the

the Letters of the Commissioners, how to get this only at my hand, to wit, that I should send particular Articles, and that in my own Name: But I have always answer'd, That if the Peace might be concluded, as you (my Lords) demanded it, I should be satisfied: I not minding to have any other condition, either Good or Evil, than that which you accepted of; nor yet minding, neither directly nor indirectly, to sunder my self from the common Cause; upon which I did judg, that either my Adversity, or my Prosperity, did depend.

Is not this a great fault to upbraid a Man with this, that he is a good Man? and that he is as much loyal, constant, and assur'd, against all the Winds of fair Promises, as by God's Grace he is against all the Floods of cruel Threatnings?

Hitherto (my Lords) you have heard the Accusations, or rather the Injuries, wicked Speeches and Slanders, which they have gather'd together against my Honour and Reputation. It shall belong to you (to whom only I think my self bound, by reason of my Goods, of the state wherein they are, and especially of my Oaths) to judg thereof as it shall please you: for I do not refuse, if I be found culpable, to receive Punishment; but if it fall out, as I hope it will, that you judg that I am accus'd by Tyrants and Slanderers, then I shall esteem my mean, yet (notwithstanding) my most loyal, and my most faithful Service, to have been very well imploy'd.

*The Sentence of the Proscription.* **N**OW then (my Lords) upon these frail and weak Foundations, they come to build the Sentence of their Proscription; and here they lay out all their Tragical Eloquence; they thunder; they lighten; they storm and rage; they do as the *Corebæ*, or *Furies* do in Theatres; they dart out all execrable Words, and such as have been kneaded in *Coccyte*, *Styx*, and *Acheron*, against this poor Captain. But this, Thanks be to God, doth astonish me, as much as the Thunderings and Lightnings of *Pope Clement*, thrown out of the *Mount Tarpeius*, against my Predecessor, my Lord Prince *Philebert*, did astonish him; who ceas'd not for all that to make him his Prisoner. For, after that I have look'd round about me, I find that they are but Winds of Words and Noises, to make Children afraid, rather than a Man, who thorow God's goodness hath not lost his Courage; for the roarings of all their Canons, nor for their fourscore thousand Soldiers, who were always at the Duke of *Alva* his Command; nor yet for so many Armies by Sea; nor yet for so many Treasons of the said Duke, or of his Successor against me; nor for the Treasons of the Dutches  
of

of *Parma*, who was before them: and yet notwithstanding, this was indeed a more fearful thing, than a vain Noise of such a great Thunder, which so quickly vanish'd away; and hurt no Man. And it is sufficient for me shortly to say before you (my Lords) and before all *Europe*, that every *Spaniard*, or every one that favoureth the *Spaniards*, of what quality or condition soever he be (I respect not now any man's Person) who hath said, or shall say, (as this infamous Proscription hath publish'd it) *that I am a Traitor, and a wicked Man*; that he speaketh falsely, and against the Truth. In the mean while, let them forbid me as long as they will both

*The Answer of the Lord Prince, to the Sentence of Proscription.*

Fire and Water, I, together with my Friends, will not leave off for all that, even in despite of their Rage, to live as long as it shall please God to give us Grace: For God only hath in his power, my Life and my Death, and hath number'd all the hairs of my Head; whose great Favour and Assistance I have felt, even until this present time, and I hope that he will preserve me even unto the end. As concerning the Goods which I possess, which also he giveth away (for hitherto he hath been so good a Husband, that he will give nothing of that which he hath violently taken from me) I hope (God aiding me) that it shall cost them so dear to have them, that they may get others elsewhere far better cheap. As concerning my other Goods, which he keepeth from me, I hope that God will give me grace, as well to dispossess them thereof wholly, as I have already done of a good part; and that they have never violently taken Goods from any poor Prince (albeit that they have spoil'd sundry thereof) which shall lie and weigh more heavy upon them.

He promiseth *five and twenty thousand Crowns*, either in Lands, or in ready Money, to him that shall yield me up into his cruel hands, dead or alive, or to him which shall take my life from me. But albeit, there hath heretofore no publication been made of such a matter, until this present time: thinketh he that I am ignorant, how oftentimes he and his have bargain'd with Murderers and Poysoners, to take away my Life from me? And if God have shew'd me such grace, as to make me able to preserve my self, even then when I was not advertis'd of any such danger; I hope that he will not shew me less favour at this time, wherein I am admonish'd, but rather, that as I have great occasion to look unto my self, so he will stir up sundry good and vertuous People, who shall watch for my assurance and safety. But albeit, that I know not in the World any impudence so shameless, which may be compar'd with the Impudence of the *Spaniards*: notwithstanding, I cannot sufficiently  
M m marvel,

marvel, that they have been so shameless, as to dare to publish, before all *Europe*, not only that they set a Price upon a frank and free Captain, who (thanks be to God for it) did as yet never fear them; but also, that they annex thereunto such *Recompences* and *Rewards*, yea, and those so barbarous, and so estrang'd from all Rule of *Honesty* and *Humanity*, as the like hath not been heard of: That is to say, in the first place, *that they will make him Noble, if he were not noble before, who shall do so Gentleman-like, or so noble an act.* But, I beseech you, suppose that he which should execute so wicked an act, (which thing I hope God will never suffer) were of a noble Race and Stock; think you, that there is any Gentleman in the World, I mean amongst the Nations which know what Nobility is, who would so much as eat with so wicked, ungodly, and mischievous a Man, who for Money should kill another Man, yea, tho he were the least, and the most abject person that could be found?

Now, if the *Spaniards* account such people for Noblemen; and if this be the way to come to Honour in *Castile* and *Spain*, I will no more wonder at that which all the World believeth; to wit, that the greatest part of the *Spaniards*, and especially those that count themselves Noblemen, are of the Blood of the *Moors* and *Jews*, who also keep this vertue of their Ancestors, who sold for Ready-money, down told, the Life of our Saviour; which thing also maketh me to take patiently this injury laid upon me. In the second place, *they pardon him every offence and fault, how grievous soever it might be.* But what if he had pull'd up the Christian Religion out of one of his Kingdoms? what if he had ravish'd his Daughter? what if he had spoken evil of the Inquisition, which is the greatest Crime that can be in *Spain*? should he be pardon'd? But, seeing mine Enemy meant so far to forget himself, that he would attempt to take away my Goods, my Life, and mine Honour; and that he might have more Witnesses of his Injustice and Follies, to publish it so throughout the World, and that in so many Languages, I could not very well desire, in respect of most great advantage unto myself, that he should have enrich'd and adorn'd this his Proscription with any other Ornaments than these very same; to wit, that for killing of me he should make noble, not only Villains and infamous Persons, but also the most wicked, and the most execrable People of the whole Earth; and to give such a great, yea so honourable a Reward, to so notable a Vertue. For what could be found out more fit, to justify my Righteousness and Innocency than to go about to root me out by such means? and then this to carry a Mind by Tyranny, Impositionings, forgiving of grie-  
vous

vous Crimes, making of wicked Men noble, and such like, to oppress the Defender of the Liberty of a People that is cruelly and tyrannously vex'd.

I doubt not (my Lords) but that God, who is just, hath taken from him and his all Understanding; and that he hath suffer'd him to declare and set out to all the World matter enough, whereby they may know his poysonful Heart against this Country, and against our Liberty, in as much as he maketh no account of any act, how wicked and detestable soever it may be, in respect of the Death of him, who hitherto hath so faithfully serv'd you. And further, he is not asham'd to mingle with such Sacrileges as these are, the Name of God, calling himself *his Minister or Officer*. Hath the Officer then this Power, not only to permit that which God hath forbidden; but also to reward it with Money, or Money-worth, with Nobility, and the forgiveness of Offences? And what Offences or Crimes I pray you? Verily of all Crimes, how grievous soever they can be. But I doubt not, but that God, through his most just Judgment, will cause to come down the just Vengeance of his Wrath upon the Captain and Head of such Ministers and Officers; and that on the other side, he will of his great Goodness maintain mine Innocency and mine Honour so long as I live, and amongst my Posterity after me. And as concerning my Goods and my Life, it is a long time since that I dedicated them to his Service; and I know that he will do therewith whatsoever he shall see to be good, for his own Glory, and for my Salvation.

And because (my Lords) he proceedeth also to bring the Drops of this infamous Proscription upon your Heads; so far off is it, that you shall be mov'd therewith, that ye should rather think, that herein the *Spaniard* and his Adherents follow the natural disposition of Women, who, after that they have wept, scratch'd and bitten, do for their last Remedy and Refuge, come to Injuries and Revilings: and even so doth your Enemy now yield out his last Barkings; and if we give them proof of our Constancy, Resolution and Courage, behold they are at the last of their miserable and wretched Enterprizes. For *Sylla, Carbo, Marius, Antonius*, and such other Tyrants, the first Fathers of these abominable Proscriptions, never gave Example to the *Spaniards*, to commit such Folly and Beastliness; albeit, that they have trac'd out before them that Example of Cruelty and Barbarousness, which these miserable Wretches have accomplish'd and perform'd: But they proscrib'd such only as were Fugitives, driven away, hidden in secret, and that within the Countries over which they had Power and Authority. And these Men are like unto them in

this, that is to say, in Cruelty, because they proscribe good, vertuous, and honourable Personages: but yet in this point they shew themselves sottish and foolish, that they proscribe him, whom they should fight against with an armed Power. For to send a Poisoner, as the Dutcheffs of *Parma* sent one; or to send a Murderer, as her Son, the general Heir of the Vertues of his Ancestors, did: this is not the Effect of a Proscription, but of Bribery, and Thievery rather.

Behold, my Lords, not what I am able to say, against this tyrannous Proscription, but what I have thought meet for this time: speaking unto you, who have the knowledg of sundry things that I omit, because they are known unto you, and because also that if I would attempt to speak of the particular Enterprises of the King, and of his chief Officers, I should assay to do that, which no Orator is sufficiently able worthily to describe; yea, that which no good Man was ever able to conceive: so great is their Cruelty, Tyranny, and all manner of unjust Dealing. Notwithstanding I hope, that as well by the matter contain'd in this Proscription (which is a sufficient Testimony of their over-base and abject Courage) as by my Answer, you shall sufficiently know, what are their pernicious Purposes and miserable Attempts: and by this Knowledg you shall also learn, what it is necessary for you to cast your eye upon, and diligently to understand; that is, that they despair that ever they shall be able to vanquish you by Force, and therefore they assay to sow Division amongst us, magnifying chiefly those, who have not only forsaken us against their Oath, but even have left us in perilous Times, and namely whilst that one of our Towns was besieg'd: whereof they are not able to make any just Complaint, nor alledg their accustom'd Pretext and Cloke; yea, (which also is the Heap of all Disloyalty and Unfaithfulness) at the very same time they come to assault us in other Places and Quarters. As for the Threats annex'd in this Proscription, they tend to no other end but to astonish you, to the end you might separate your selves from me; and plainly to declare, that they make war against me, and not against you even as the Wolf would persuade the Sheep, that he had not war with any but with the Dogs, which being once discomfited, he would easily agree with the Flock of Sheep; so the Dogs were always the Authors of their Debate and Combating. But, my Lords, tho I were absent, tho I were departed into *Germany*, would they burn no more? Would they spill no more Blood? Would they drown no more? Would the Liberty of the Country maintain'd by that gentle and mild Man the Duke of *Alva*? Did they not then wicked

put to death in *Spain* your own Ambassadors, my Lords of *Bergues* and of *Montigni*? Did they not at the same time set before your eyes, upon Spears and Lances, the Heads of your principal Captains and Governours? The other Point, which they most set before them, is the Extirpation of Religion. I mind not here, my Lords, to enter into this Question, which is the true Religion, wherein God is truly serv'd and call'd upon, and that according to his Word; but leave it rather to be declar'd by others, more exercis'd in that matter than I: and yet so, that every one may know by my Profession, what I believe concerning the same. But this I cannot chuse but tell you, that such is the Estate of your Country, that without the Exercise and free Use of the said Religion, it cannot stand three days. You see the number of them that profess it marvellously increas'd; you see that Hatred against the Pope is inrooted deeply in the Hearts of all the Inhabitants of the Country, because that his damnable Practices against this whole Estate are manifestly discover'd.

Who is he then that can boast that he loveth the Country, and would give Counsel to drive away such a great number of People, which once departing, shall leave the Country waste, poor, and miserable; and shall people and enrich the strange Nations about us? But suppose that they will not depart, or void the Country, who is he that can enforce them so to do? Let us look upon our Neighbours; let us consider our own Examples, and if we be not utterly void of Wit and Understanding, we will never chuse such pernicious and hurtful Counsels, as shall utterly, even from top to toe, bring to ruin and destruction this Estate. I will yet say somewhat more unto you, my Lords, that albeit that amongst them which follow the *Roman* Church, there are sundry good People, and Lovers of their Country; and that amongst them there are some also, which have most honourably acquitted and behav'd themselves; yet notwithstanding those of the Religion are very well assur'd of this, that there shall never be found any amongst them, who hath had Intelligence, or made any practice with the Enemy, but all of them generally have been contrary unto him. And albeit that some have been found amongst them, who being like unto wanton and proud Children, have brought, thro their Unheelines, some trouble into the House; yet for all that, they have not had any dealing with the common Enemy. Seeing then, my Lords, that you know their Purposes and Attempts, there resteth no other thing but this, that you do in time provide for them, and labour what ye can to redress the same. And how shall this be perform'd? Forsooth by this means, that ye perform

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in effect that which ye have always in your mouth; and that which the Mark of your Sheaf of Arrows signifieth, which it hath pleas'd you to have graven in your Seal: that is to say, that no Member of this goodly Body respect that which is his own, but regard the whole Body altogether; that some one part of the Body take not unto it self that Meat which is prepar'd for the whole, but that it suffer the Stomach (which is the Council that ye shall ordain and appoint) to concoct and digest the same, and to send it by the Veins to all the Members of this Estate; and specially, that where-soever any Disease or Sicknes shall appear, the Physicians should speedily be sent thither, and that the Patients should quietly bear for a time the Miseries upon them, that so they may feel at the length a joyful Deliverance from their Disease and Evil. Shall not this be a just Reproach upon us and ours for ever, if that, having so glorious an Estate under our power, and so goodly means for our Defence, we do, thro a miserable Covetousness and greedy Desire to get unto our selves some Commodities, and that with the prejudice and hurt of our Country-men and Friends, whilst some draw one way, and some another; if we do, I say, find our selves, and that in a moment, snar'd and overwhelm'd by our deadly Enemies? Remember, my Lords, I pray you, the very great diminishing and weakning of this Estate, which came to pass after the Death of Duke *Charles*, which fell upon us for no other thing, but because that while the Provinces busied themselves, to contend and to fight against one another for certain pretended Privileges, and for certain Commodities, the rest was abandon'd and forsaken. Think not that it is in my power (the Affairs and Matters being in such Condition as they are) any long time to resist the Enemy with such small and slender means, as you (my Lords) know that I have had in my hand and possession. But on the other side, if I have any Experience or Practice of Government and War; if I know this Country, and the Means that the Enemy hath, tho that all the Armies and Powers, which they threaten shall come the next Year out of *Spain* and *Italy*, should come upon us and our Powers, they shall do no more, but much less rather, than the Duke of *Alva* did in *Holland* and *Zeland*. And if it be in your power to take order for this (as it is indeed) and yet notwithstanding ye do it not; by what name shall a man call this Fault, if it be committed by you, my Lords, who are here assembled, and upon whom all the good People of this Country stay themselves, esteeming you as their Fathers and their Protectors, who will also willingly embrace, as some joyful News sent from Heaven, any  
good

good Order which you shall decree and establish? Wherefore take pity of your selves; and if that which concerneth your selves move you not, yet take pity, I pray you, of so many poor People already destroy'd, and more like to be; of so many poor Widows and fatherless Children; of so many Murders and Slaughters, committed within the Bowels of your own Country; of so many Churches destroy'd; and of so many Pastors wandering up and down, together with their poor Flocks. Set before you that cruel and barbarous Execution committed at *Nivelle*, by the Count of *Mansfeld*. Which things you may easily avoid, and cast all the Evil and Mischief of this War upon the Enemy, if only you remove Partiality and Partakings, and with one Courage and Heart, as it were, employ together all the means that you have, without sparing, I say, not the bottom of your Purses, but that which aboundeth therein.

And as concerning that which particularly toucheth myself, you see (my Lords) that it is this Head that they seek for, the which by such a Price, and so great a Sum of Money, they have vow'd and appointed to death; and say, that so long as I shall be among you, the Wars shall have no end. Would to God, my Lords, either that my perpetual Banishment, or else my very Death it self, might bring unto you a sound and true Deliverance from so many Mischiefs and Calamities, as the *Spaniards* (whom I have seen so many times deliberate in Council, devise, and speak of particularly, and whom I know within and without) do devise against you, and prepare for you. O how sweet should this Banishment be unto me? O how delightful should this Death be unto me? For wherefore is it, that I have given over, yea lost all my Goods? Is it to enrich my self? Wherefore have I lost mine own Brethren, whom I lov'd more than mine own Life? Is it that I might find some other elsewhere? Wherefore have I so long time left my Son a Prisoner; my Son, I say, whom I ought so much to desire, if I be a Father? Is it because you are able to give me another, or because you are able to restore him to me again? Wherefore have I put my Life so oftentimes in danger? What other Recompence, what other Reward, can I look for, of my long Travels, which have come upon me for your Service sake, even so far, that they have brought upon me old Age, and the Ruin and Loss of all my Goods, except it be to purchase and to procure you Liberty, and that, if need be, with the Price of my Blood? If you therefore, my Lords, do judg, either that my Absence, or that my very Death it self, may serve you, or stand you in any stead, behold I am ready to obey;  
M m 4 command

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Command me, yea send me even to the world's end, and I will obey you. Behold my Head, over which no Prince or Monarch hath any power, save you only; dispose thereof, as shall make most for your own Good, and for the Health and Preservation of your Commonwealth. But if you judg, that this mean Experience and small Diligence that is in me, and which I have attain'd by so long and so continual Travel: if you judg that the Remainder of my Goods, and that my Life it self, may as yet serve you (as indeed I do wholly dedicate and consecrate the same unto this Country) resolve then upon the Points which I propound unto you and set before you. And if you think that I bear any Love to the Country, and that I have any Sufficiency in me to give Counsel, believe that this is the only mean to assure, yea to deliver our selves from the Enemy. This being done, let us with one Heart and Good Will go together, and let us together embrace the Defence of this good People, which demandeth nothing else but to have good Counsels laid open before them, nor desireth any thing else but to follow the same: And this doing, if you yet continue towards me the Favour which heretofore you have born me, I hope by your Aid and God's Grace (which I have so often heretofore felt, and that in very perplexed and doubtful Matters) that that which shall be resolv'd upon by you, shall be for the Good and Preservation of your Selves, your Wives and Children, and all Sacred and Holy Things.

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*The Prince of Orange's Letter to the Estates.**To my Lords the Estates General.*

**Y**OU have known, my Lords, by my Life past, and by my Behaviour, that I never minded to answer to any Libels of Defamation, which certain Slanderers had publish'd against me; insomuch as if the Quality and Greatness of the Wrong, which hath been done against me by the Proscription that the King of *Spain* hath caus'd to be publish'd, I had not as yet proceeded so far, especially had it not been that the Maintenance of mine Honour had requested the same of me, as I have more largely laid out the same in my Defence, which I have presented unto you. Since which time, there is come into my hands a Letter very false and counterfeit by mine Enemy, which they say they intercepted, and I sent to my Lord the Duke of *Anjou*, or (as they say) to the Duke of *Alanson*, whereof some Personages amongst them, and that of great Quality also, have sent Copies, as well to certain Towns of our side, and amongst us, as to sundry strange and foreign Princes. This Letter, my Lords, is so fondly written (whether a Man regard the Stile thereof, or will respect the matter therein contain'd, which by the bare reading thereof sufficiently bewrayeth that there is not in it any shew of Truth) that such an impudent Device deserveth no Answer: as also, God be prais'd, there is not found a Man amongst us, which is any whit at all mov'd therewith. On the other side, every Man hath known, that they had no other meaning hereby, but by such Mists and Smokes to darken the Brightness, by which their miserable and pernicious Intent against this Country hath been discover'd by the Letters of Cardinal *Grandville* and others, which you have commanded to be printed, after that you knew their Hands, their Signs, and their Seals; and withal thereby to take unto themselves an occasion and matter to cast up and spew out (according to the manner of shameless Women) slanderous and wicked Speeches, full of lying. But so far off is it, that by this means they have (in respect of me) obtain'd that which they pretended, that on the other side they have done me great pleasure, in publishing such Follies; because that thereby they do more and more justify and verify my Defence:

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fence: sufficiently proving themselves to be shameless Lyars, most impudent Slanderers, and most fond Falsifiers, which serveth more and more to justify (as I have said) mine Innocency, and to give Approbation to all my Actions. For seeing that all Men know, that this should be the best News that they could receive or hear of, that I would forsake the Country, and leave it to them; I offer'd them (my Lords) and you under my Honour do promise them to accomplish it, if they be able to prove in your Presence, that I have at any time written, or commanded to be written, or sent such a Letter, that presently I will depart the Country, and withdraw my self from it, without ever setting my self against them: And I promise them, even upon a simple or bare Request, to send them such Passports and Safe-conducts, and they also pen'd in such order, as either they can or will demand. But yet this shall be with this Condition, that if they will not accept this so reasonable an Offer, all they who have been the Authors of such a Writing, or who have publish'd it, or who have sent it into the Towns amongst us, or to foreign Princes and strange Countryes, shall be held for Lyars, Slanderers, and wicked Speakers, as indeed such they are.

*Given at Delft the 25th of January 1581.*

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*A Copy of the Letter which my Lord the Prince of Orange sent unto the Kings and Potentates of Christendom.*

S I R,

I Doubt not, but that your Majesty hath been advertis'd of a certain Proscription, which the King of *Spain* hath appointed to be publish'd against me, because he hath caused the same to be spread abroad in all Languages, and hath sent it also into divers quarters of *Christendom*. I and all my very good Friends have thought, that I could not sufficiently defend mine Honour (which I am advis'd and purpos'd not to hazard or indanger for any thing) but by setting a just Defence against this unjust Proscription. In regard whereof, I have presented unto my Lords, the Estates of these Countries, my Answer: which Answer also (for the maintenance of my Honour and Reputation amongst the Princes and Potentates of *Europe*, who in respect of their Preheminences and Dignities are the Succours of poor Princes and distressed Noblemen) I have been bold to send unto them, and to you, Sir, particularly; most humbly beseeching your Majesty, that after you have seen it, you would yield like Judgment thereof, as it hath pleas'd my Lords the Estates, who have been most faithful Witnesses of all my Actions, to do, and to esteem and judg thereof also (as it shall please your Majesty to take knowledg of it) by their Advice and Counsel, which also is annex'd to my said Defence. And because, Sir, your Majesty may think it strange, that the King of *Spain* having heretofore violently taken from me all my Goods, after that I had put my Governments into the hands of the Dutchess of *Parma*, then the Governess of this Estate, and had withdrawn my self into the Country of *Germany*, the Place of my Nativity, where I kept my self peaceably among my Brethren, Kinsfolks, and Friends, as also I had fully purpos'd so to continue: and that having at the same time convey'd or carry'd away from the Schools my Son the Count of *Bueren*, and both contrary to the Privileges of the Country, and against his own Oath, causing him to be carry'd Prisoner into *Spain*, where he is as yet cruelly kept captive: and besides, having procur'd me to be condemn'd to death, by the Duke of *Alva* his own Officer. Because, I say, your Majesty may think it  
 strange,

strange, that for all these Reasons (which were nevertheless very great and weighty) I have not hitherto publish'd any Defence, which was directed to the said King, or might directly concern him: which thing notwithstanding I do at this present, and declare thereby, that the Faults wherewith the King of *Spain* mindeth to charge me, belong unto himself. I do therefore most humbly beseech your Majesty, Sir, that before you judg of this my Writing, you would consider the Quality both of the Crimes and Faults, wherewith I am charg'd by this Proscription, and also the Quality of mine own Person. For if the King of *Spain* was content to withhold from me my Son and my Goods, which he hath in his possession, and further to offer (as at this present he doth) five and twenty thousand Crowns for my Head, and to promise to make such noble as should murder me, and to pardon them all the Faults whatsoever that they could have committed before that time: no man should think it evil in me, that I have attempted by all the means I could (as indeed heretofore I have done) to preserve my self and mine, and to enable my self what I could, to enter again into that which is mine own; and that I have follow'd that Order and Course of Life that I have done. But further, the King of *Spain* having all the world thorow publish'd, that I am a *publick Plague, an Enemy of the World, Unthankful, Unfaithful, a Traitor, and a wicked Person*; these are such Injuries, Sir, that no Gentleman, no tho he were of the basest of the King of *Spain's* natural Subjects, can or ought to endure: Insomuch, Sir, that tho I were one of his simple and absolute Vassals, who oweth Homage unto him by Honour, yet so it is, that by such a Sentence, and so unjust in all and every part thereof (I also having been by him spoil'd of my Lands and Lordships, in respect of which I should heretofore have taken an Oath unto him) I might have held my self absolv'd and free from all my Bonds towards him, and have assay'd also (which thing even Nature hath taught every one) by all the means I could to maintain mine Honour, which ought to be to me and to all Noblemen more dear than Life and Goods. Notwithstanding, seeing it hath pleas'd God to shew me this great Grace, that I am born a free Lord, not holding of any other but of the Empire, as do the Princes and other free Lords of *Germany* and *Italy*: and further, seeing that I bear the Title, and have the name of an *absolute and free Prince*, tho indeed my Princedom be not very great: yea whatsoever it be, I not being his natural Subject, neither having held any thing of him, but by reason of my Signiories and Lordships, of which notwithstanding he hath wholly dispossest'd me; it hath

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seem'd unto me, that I could not defend mine Honour, and satisfy or content my near Kinsfolks, sundry Princes (to whom this is my Honour that I am link'd) and my whole Posterity, but in answering by publick Writing to this Accusation, which in the presence of all *Christendom*, is publish'd and set out against me. And tho I have not been able to do it, without touching his Honour, I hope notwithstanding (Sir) that your Majesty will impute it, rather to the Inforcement that the Quality and Heinousness of this Proscription hath laid upon me, than to my Nature or Will. For as concerning this point, that some Men may think it strange, that I do after this sort defend my self, seeing that I have sometimes heretofore held of him sundry Lands and Lordships; for answer thereto, I will most humbly beseech your Majesty, to consider the Heinousness of the Injury that is done me, which a right Nobleman will never indeed abide: also that I am not his natural Subject, and as concerning my Fees and Pensions, that he hath spoil'd me of them. But suppose that I had always enjoy'd them, yet so it is, that the same Law which he useth towards others, should not be deny'd to me.

He holdeth of the *French King* in Loyalty and Homage, and even as the Vassal doth of his Lord, the County or Earldom of *Charolois*: and yet for all that he ceaseth not to make war against the Crown of *France*, yea he never leaveth off continually to practise and devise somewhat against the same. He taketh this as a sure Foundation or Rule, that being a Sovereign Governor in some other place, it is lawful for him to revenge himself of the wrong which he pretended was done unto him by the late *French King Henry* of most noble Memory. When he made war against the Pope *Caraffa*, because as a Vassal he held of him the Kingdoms of *Sicily* and *Naples*, he publish'd his Defence, by which he maintain'd that he was absolv'd from his Oath, because that the Pope kept not himself within the terms or points that the Lord oweth to his Vassal, according to the feudal Laws which are mutual, and respect as well the one as the other. Now, Sir, there is nothing so natural or kindly, as that every one should in his own cause, receive the very self-same Rule and Order, that he would have another Man to receive or allow of. Wherefore he should not think it strange, that I being so many ways revil'd and injur'd by him, and not being his Subject, that I, I say, do aid my self with the means that God hath given me, and with which he hath been willing to help himself against his Lords, who have not offended him in any thing  
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*In the Letter  
sent to the  
French King,  
it is written,  
He holdeth  
of your Ma-  
jesty.*

whatsoever, that draweth nigh to the Wrong which I have suffer'd at his hand: yea, he should not think it strange, that I use against him that reproachful Note, by which he assayeth to mark as it were in the Forehead both me and my Race.

And because my Lords the Estates (who have more nearly known the truth of all that is contain'd in this my Defence, and have approv'd the same) have yielded unto me sufficient Testimony touching my Life past; I do most humbly also beseech your Majesty (Sir) in approving this same mine Answer, to believe that I am not either a Traitor or wicked Person, but that I am (thanks be to God for it) a Nobleman, of a very good and most antient House, yea a good Man, and true in every thing that I promise; not unthankful, nor unfaithful, nor having committed any thing, whereby a Lord or Knight of my State and Countenance may receive any Reproach or Shame: most humbly beseeching you to hold and account me in the number of your most humble Servants. And thus having most humbly submitted my self unto your Majesty, I will pray God, Sir, to give you, together with a perfect Health, a most blessed and most long Life.

*At Delft in Holland,*

*Febr. 4. 1581.*

Your Majesty's most Humble

and Obedient Servant,

*William of Nassau.*

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# Phenix XIV.

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*A Narrative of the Proceedings of a Great Council of Jews, assembled in the Plain of Ageda in Hungary, about thirty Leagues from Buda, to examine the Scriptures concerning Christ, on the Twelfth of October 1650.*

By SAMUEL BRET T, there present.

*Also a Relation of some other Observations in his Travels beyond the Seas.*

First Printed in 1655.

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## To the READER.

**T**HERE was nothing I more desired than to travel beyond the Seas, and to know the various Manners of the Nations of the World : for which, thro God's Providence, I had an opportunity offer'd me, to my great Satisfaction, being Chirurgion of an English Ship in the Straits, where, for a Cure that I did for Orlando  
do