much inferior in ſtrength, and met with his former fortune. Moſt of his ſhips were ſunk or taken ; but he found means to puſh into Middleburg, with the broken remains of his ſquadron, to the great joy of the garriſon, now reduced by the ſcarcity of proviſions to the laſt extremity. D’Avila’s diſgrace did not end here ; for, on his return to Antwerp, he was a third time attacked and defeated, with conſiderable loſs, by Wertz, who thus repaired the diſappointment of an unſucceſsful attempt made on Tolen.

Soon after the reduction of Haarlem, Alva, percei­ving that his ſeverity anſwered no other purpoſe than irritating the people more againſt the Spaniſh govern­ment, publiſhed a proclamation, couched in the moſt ſoothing terms : but the people were not diſpoſed to confide in promiſes ſo often violated, nor to throw themſelves on the clemency of a prince and governor who had ſhown them­ſelves inflexible, implacable, perfidious, and inhuman. They now expected the worſt that could happen, and bid defiance to fortune. The Spaniards were preparing to inveſt Alo­mar, and the Hollanders put every means in practice to reſiſt them. Eight months pay was due to the garriſon, who began to mutiny; but contributions were raiſed, which ſilenced their clamours. Frederic of Toledo, with 16,000 men, ſat down before a town fortified by no regular works, and defended only by 300 burghers, and 800 ſoldiers, in extreme want of proviſions, and without the proſpect of re­lief. Sonoi, the governor, deſpairing of being able to ſuſtain a ſiege, wrote to the prince of Orange, that a place deſtitute of troops, proviſions, ammunition, money, and every necessary, ought to be evacuated, and the few ſeldiers in garriſon, and the burghers, ſaved from falling into the hands of the enemy. But the prince of Orange ſo anima­ted them by a letter, that, to a man, the townſmen, gover­nor, and ſoldiers, determined to ſacrifice their lives, and ſpill the laſt drop of their blood in the breach. Perſeverance had made the Zealanders maſters of Rammekſhs, contrary to all hope and probability ; the ſame virtue, the prince obſerved, might ſave Alcmar, a town of the utmoſt conſequence to the cauſe of liberty. What particularly inſpired the defen­dants with courage, was the prince’s good fortune in ſurpriſing Gertrudenburg. Frederic puſhed the ſiege with great vigour. He ordered the inhabitants of Haarlem to work in the trenches, and ſuſtain the firſt fire of their friends and countrymen. On the 18th of September, a battery of 20 pieces of heavy cannon began to play ; a breach was ſoon effected ; the aſſault was given, and repulſed with vi­gour, though ſuſtained by the bulk of the Spaniſh army. From a Spaniſh officer taken, the garriſon were informed, that Alva had given orders to retire, in caſe he failed in the third aſſualt ; but if he ſucceeded, to put all to the ſword. Their courage was whetted by this account, and prepara­tions were cheerfully made for withſtanding the utmoſt efforts. Frederic was foiled in every attempt ; the assailants were driven from the breach with prodigious slaughter; the Spaniſh ſoldiers refuſed to mount the walls ; in a word, the ſiege was raiſed, and the town relieved, to the exceeding joy of the prince of Orange, and great mortification of Alva.

This advantage was attended with another of leſs im­portance, but which equally ſerved to inſpirit the Holland­ers. The duke of Alva’s grand fleet, equipped with great labour and expence, was defeated by the Zealanders. Though the action did not prove deciſive, it greatly cha­grined the duke, as Bossu, one of his beſt officers, was taken priſoner, and his fleet afterwards dreaded to look the enemy in the face.

Notwithſtanding this ſucceſs, the affairs of the States were yet in a moſt precarious situation ; and their ability to ſupport themſelves appeared in the higheſt degree proble­matical. The Duke of Alva had reſigned the government, and his ſuccessor Don Louis de Requeſnes had orders to puſh the war with vigour, while his antagoniſts prepared for the moſt obſtinate reſiſtance. The firſt advantage ap­peared on the side of the prince of Grange, by the surren­der of Middleburg. But this was ſoon balanced by the de­feat and death of prince Louis of Naſſain. The Spaniards, however, were prevented from purſuing the advantage they had gained, by a mutiny among their troops. This mutiny took place on a regular and well-concerted plan. The soldiers disposed all their officers, appointed new ones, and eſtabliſhed a sort of community, veiling one of their num­ber with the chief authority. The diſtresses of the Spa­niards on account of this tumult were likewise augmented by a victory gained by the Zealanders at ſea; when almoſt 40 of the Spaniſh ſhips were taken or deſtroyed. Philip then perceiving that numberleſs difficulties would attend the reduction of the provinces by force, publiſhed an act of grace ; but in ſuch a limited manner, that it was unanimouſly rejected. Requeſnes then determining to cloſe the campaign with ſome remarkable exploit, laid ſiege to Ley­den. The city was reduced to the utmoſt diſtress for want of proviſions ; the whole country was laid under water ; and they could receive no relief except what was obtained by boats forcing themſeves through the enemy to the city. In ſhort, they were reduced to the brink of deſtruction, when a violent ſouth-weſt wind drove the inundation againſt the works of the beſiegers with ſuch violence, that they were obliged to relinquiih the enterprize for fear of being en­tirely ſwallowed up. In their retreat they were attacked by the garriſon, and 500 of them deſtroyed. This diſap­pointment ſo provoked the Spaniſh ſoldiery, that they depoſed Valdes the commander, whom they had choſen for themſelves, and proclaimed their old one : a ſecond mutiny enſued, and they marched in a tumultuous manner to Utrecht. Here, however, they met with a very unfavour­able reception. Barlaimont the governor declared them rebels and traitors to their king ; and gave free liberty to every one to maſſacre them wherever they could be found. The mutineers attempted to ſet fire to the gates ; but **be­**ing repulſed, and their leader slain, they capitulated, were received into favour, and ſent into winter-quarters.

The year 1575 commenced with ſome negociations ſor peace ; but theſe proving ineffectual, though the emperor interpoſed his mediation as far as poſſible, the war was re­newed with redoubled fury. Fortune now declared in fa­vour of the Spaniards ; and the States were reduced to ſuch deſpair, that they began ſeriouſly to think of making an offer of the provinces to ſome Proteſtant power who might be able to defend them againſt the tyranny of the Spaniards. This offer was made to queen Elizabeth of England; but, ſhe declined it, for political reaſons. A negociation was, even ſet on foot for this purpoſe with France, in favour of the duke of Anjou : but it ended is nothing beſides the advantage of eſtabliſhing a mart at Calais for the diſpoſal of the prizes made by the Gueux. Philip, however, notwith­ſtanding his power, had the utmoſt difficulty in ſupporting the expence of the war. He had already borrowed more than 40,000,000 crowns from the Spaniſh and Genoeſe merchants, and the intereſt ſtill unpaid now amounted to as much as the capital. The war had beſides coſt a greater ſum ſent in ſpecie from Spain and the Indies, which, with the immenſe losses occaſioned by the ſtagnation of trade in the Netherlands, had quite exhauſted the treasury. Large arrears were due to the troops ; they were every day mu­tinying, and ſome broke out into actual rebellion. To remedy theſe evils, Requeſnes demanded a ſupply of the provinces ; and they anſwered him, by requiring restitution