of their privileges, and diſmiſſion of the Spaniſh troops. Flanders, in particular, paid the deſired ſubſidy, by balan­cing it againſt half the damages the province ſuſtained from the miſconduct of the governors, and the wars wantonly and unneceſſarily excited. While this affair was in agitation, Requeſnes died of an ardent fever : the council of ſtate aſſumed the adminiſtration, and the prince of Orange took the opportunity of the confuſion that enſued to lay the firſt foundation of the Pacification of Ghent, by which his affairs were conſiderably retrieved, and the greateſt blow given to the court of Spain ſhe had yet ſuſtained. All now was anarchy in the Low Countries. The garriſon of Ziriczee mutinied for want of pay ; and to appeaſe them, the council of ſtate ſent 100,000 livres, which the Walloon regiments under Madragon ſeized upon, after expelling the Spaniſh ſoldiers, and wounding and murdering their officers. This did not unite the Spaniſh mutineers among themselves ; they turned out the few remaining officers, and made new ap­pointments. Joining with the garriſon of Lillo, they march­ed, to the number of 2000 men, towards the capital ; com­mitted horrible outrages ; overwhelmed the inhabitants of Bruſſels with conſternation ; and, upon the 26th of July, ſeized upon Aloft, confined the principal burghers, and hanged up a king’s officer. The moſt favourable conditions were offered by the council of ſtate, in order to appeaſe the tumult, and proviſions were ſent to the mutineers. This created ſuſpicion in the inhabitants of Bruſſels, that the mutiny was excited by the connivance of the council, with a view of ruining the provinces, without incurring the reſentment and odium conſequent on any appearance of legal oppreſſion. They arreſted the council, declared the Spa­niards rebels, and took meaſures in concert with the other cities and provinces for expelling foreigners out of the Netherlands. A confederacy to this purpoſe was formed between the provinces of Hainault, Artois, and Flanders, to which all the rest except Luxemburgh acceded ; and Don John of Auſtria, who had entered the Low Countries in quality of governor and ſuccessor to Requeſnes, was obliged to live in obſcurity in Luxemburgh until the ſtorm ſhould ſubside.

The prince of Orange was all this while profiting by theſe commotions. He had long laboured to have the States-general convoked ; and he now ſaw them not only assembled, but preparing to make head againſt the Spaniards, by a ſtrange vicissitude of fortune, ariſing from accidents which all his penetration and ſagacity could not foreſee. United in councils againſt the common enemy, every meaſure was taken for reducing the citadels of Ghent, Antwerp, and Maeſtricht, the chief places in the hands of the Spa­niards, and what muſt principally contribute to their expulsion. Ghent citadel was taken on the 27th of Novem­ber, by the aſſiſtance of a ſtrong reinforcement of troops and artillery ſent by the prince of Orange. At Antwerp the states of Brabant were leſs ſucceſsful. The citadel was vigorously attacked ; but the mutineers at Aloft entering the citadel to aſſiſt their countrymen, a ſally was made, the beſiegers were driven from their trenches, great part of the town was conſumed by fire, and the rest pillaged for three days with every kind of inſolence and brutality, at a time when Antwerp was the moſt flouriſhing and populous city in the Netherlands, and indeed among the moſt wealthy in Europe. It is affirmed that the treaſure carried off amount­ed to four millions, beſides an infinity of rich merchandiſe. This terrible calamity united Papiſts and Proteſtants with­out diſtinction in a confederacy, and co-operated with the meaſures of the prince of Change to form the Pacification of Ghent : which was a confederacy of all the provinces to expel foreign ſoldiers ; to reſtore the ancient form of government ; to refer matters of religion to the ſeveral states of the provinces; for ever to unite the other 15 provinces in the ſame common intereſt with Holland, Zealand, and the prince of Orange ; to renew the com­merce and amity between them ; to aſſemble the ſtates in the manner practiſed under the houſe of Burgundy and Charles V. ; to ſuſpend all the rigorous edicts of the duke of Alva on the ſubject of religion, until the States general ſhould take the matter into conſideration ; to releaſe all the natives made priſoners, mutually, without ransom ; and to reſtore all things upon the ſame footing as before the war, and the tyrannical government of the duke of Alva.

The States general began with ſoliciting aid from the queen of England. Their ambaſſador had a gracious re­ception ; and Elizabeth advanced them 20,000l. ſterling, on condition that the French ſhould not be invited into the Netherlands, that they would accept of reaſonable terms of accommodation if offered, and that the loan ſhould be re­paid the enſuing year. Next a ceſſation of hoſtilities was agreed upon with Don John, upon his aſſurances chat every reaſonable requeſt of the provinces ſhould be granted. On the 27th of December, deputies were ſent with propoſals to Don John to diſband the foreign troops : but he deſired to know what ſecurity the States would give for their alle­giance after the departure of the Spaniſh forces ; and remonſtrated againſt the unreaſonableneſs of diſarming the king, while his rebellious ſubjects were in arms, and ready to ſeize the firſt opportunity of deserting their obedience. He likewiſe demanded ſecurity with reſpect to religion ; and inſiſted ſo warmly on this head, that it was obvious he had no inclination to part with the Spaniſh army before the provinces of Zealand and Holland embraced the Catholic religion. After much altercation, necessity at length obli­ged Don John to grant all that was required, to confirm the Pacification of Ghent, and diſmiſs the Spaniſh army. He had the king’s authority for his proceedings ; the treaty was proclaimed at Bruſſels and Antwerp on the 17th of February ; and Don John immediately acknowledged go­vernor, and the king’s lieutenant of the Netherlands.

It muſt be obſerved, however, that when this edict was signed, the provinces of Holland and Zealand, by the ad­vice of the prince of Orange, made the following objections, *viz.* that the States-general had not eſtabliſhed the right of aſſembling this ſovereign tribunal in the perſons originally inverted with that power by the conſtitution ; that in some particular instances they had ſuffered an infraction of their privileges ; that the Spaniſh troops were allowed to carry off the immenſe wealth they had acquired in the Nether­lands, and by the destruction of the city of Antwerp in par­ticular ; that no stipulation was made in favour of thoſe diſpoſſeſſed of their eſtates, &c. For theſe seasons the States and the prince refuſed to sign the edict, though they conſented to all the articles that did not contradict thoſe ſpecified. This raised a contention, by which the public peace was ſoon broken. Don John was strenuous in re­commending violent meaſures againſt the prince and his party. To this purpoſe he wrote a letter in cipher to the king; but this letter fell into the hands of Henry IV. of France, who tranſmitted it to the prince of Orange. Eſcovedo, ſecretary to Don John, was next ſent into Spain with a meſſage to the ſame purpoſe ; but the governor be­coming impatient for his return, left the country himſelf, under pretence of complimenting Margaret queen of Na­varre on her journey to Spaw. In this expedition he ſeized on the citadel of Namur: but attempted to juſtify his conduct to the States, by repreſenting, that he was under a necessity of retiring to a place of ſafety, while he ſaw the flames of war and rebellion ready to break out all around him ; and concluded with deſiring the States to diſarm the burghers of Bruſſels, who were cloſely attached to the