prince of Orange. This letter was anſwered by an invita­tion from the States to return ; promiſing at the ſame time, that they would, to the utmoſt of their power, bring to puniſhment all thoſe who ſhould form any deſigns against him. This, however, was not only refuſed, but the whole tenor of his conduct afterwards ſhowed, that he was reſolved to commence hostilities, and that he was encouraged to do ſo by Philip. The event was, that Don John was depoſed from his dignity, the archduke Matthias was appointed governor-general, and preparations were made for a new and vigorous war. The Spaniſh troops were ordered to aſſemble in Naples and Milan ; levies were made in Burgundy and Luxemburgh; and a reſolution was taken of ſupporting Don John with the whole power of the Spaniſh monarchy. To oppoſe this formidable power, the States, in 1578, en­tered into a new treaty with the queen of England ; by which that princeſs agreed to advance them 100,000l. Sterling, and to aſſiſt the provinces with 5000 foot and 1000 horſe ; on condition that the loan ſhould be repaid with intereſt in eight months ; that certain towns ſhould be ceded to her in ſecurity ; and that the States ſhould de­fray the expence of tranſporting their troops, and take them into pay, while they acted in their ſervice. Eliza­beth, however, afterwards departed from theſe conditions, under pretence that the French would ſuſpect her having ſome deſigns on the Netherlands, and would for that reaſon unite their forces with thoſe of Spain againſt her. Inſtead of the Engliſh troops, ſhe now propoſed to ſend John Casimir, count Palatine, with 3000 foot and 3000 horſe ; refuſing at the ſame time to pay the money ſtipulated, until the States had conſented to this alteration.

Before this treaty was concluded, Don John was joined by an army of 16,000 foot and 2000 horſe, all choſen ve­terans, commanded by Alexander Parneſe, duke of Parma, the best officer in the Spaniſh ſervice. Being thus ſuperior to the prince of Orange, the Spaniards gained ſeveral ad­vantages ; which, however, were more than balanced by the loſs of the city of Amſterdam. This place had been cloſely blocked up for ſeveral months by sea and land, and at laſt concluded a treaty with the friends of the prince of Orange ; by which it was ſtipulated, that the Proteſtants ſhould hold their religious meetings without the walls, and have a burying-place within ; that the garriſon ſhould be diſbanded, and 600 men, commanded by the burghers, levied for the defence of the city ; that all perſons baniſhed on account of religion ſhould be recalled ; that Amſterdam ſhould enjoy all its ancient privileges, and that all vacancies in public employments ſhould be filled without diſtinction of party or connection. This capitulation, however, was ſoon after broken; the Catholic-magiſtrates were driven out of the city, attended by the prieſts and Popiſh clergy of every de­nomination ; the images were pulled down, and only the re­formed clergy ſuffered to preach publicly. Some ineffec­tual negociations next took place; after which the States, ſenſible that the misfortunes and losses in the winter aroſe from the irreſolution of the provincial ſtates, veſted the archduke, the council of ſtate, and the prince of Orange, with a power of levying what number of troops they ſhould think necessary, and diſpoſing of them as they thought proper, without referring to the ſtates in every particu­lar : they only recommended that they would proportion the expences to the revenue, which at that time amounted to 600,000 livres. About this time a revolution, greatly beneficial to the common cauſe, was effected in Guelderland ; John of Nassau, brother to the prince of Orange, had been appointed governor of this province. Upon entering on the adminiſtration, he perceived that the whole conduct of affairs was in the hands of perſons ſtrongly affected to king Philip and the Catholic religion ; moſt of the cities professed Popery ; and the count, who had ſworn to the pacifica­tion of Ghent, was retrained from attempting any change in religion. The face of affairs, however, took a ſudden turn ; John acquired great popularity, and ſoon diſcovered that foreigners were the leading perſons. By his artifice and policy he ſtimulated the people againſt them ; they were deprived of their seats in the provincial ſtates, and turned out of their offices in the government of the cities. Thus Nassau obtained the chief direction, and was able to co-operate with the meaſures planned by his brother. Ano­ther revolution happened in Groningen, of which the ſieur de Billy was governor. Billy was by birth a Portugueſe, by religion a Catholic, and conſequently a dependent on the court of Spain : he refuſed to accede to the union of the provinces, and the States-general found it necessary to ſend to him Francis Martin Stella, with propoſals for signing the pacification of Ghent. Billy, ſuſpecting that the deputy’s real deſign was to excite a revolt in the province, put him to the torture to extort confeſſion ; after having firſt wounded him with his own hand. The deputy bore the moſt excruciating tortures with firmneſs ; and having a ſurgeon to dreſs his wound to enable him to undergo a se­cond trial, he communicated ſomething in the Greek lan­guage, which the ſurgeon ſoon made public : in conſequence, the mob assembled, reſcued Stella, declared for the pacifi­cation of Ghent, and obliged Billy to quit his government. The change of councils in theſe two provinces was of the utmoſt ſervice to the confederacy ; and would have enabled the province to have encountered the whole power of Spain, had not their affairs been distracted by dissentions among themſelves.

At laſt the prince of Orange, perceiving that little confi­dence was to be placed in the unanimity of provinces rent by faction, different in religion, and divided by ambition, political maxims, and private intereſt, formed the ſcheme of more cloſely uniting the provinces of which he was gover­nor, and cementing them with thoſe more contiguous, in which the Proteſtant intereſt prevailed. Such an alliance was ſubject to fewer difficulties than attended the more ge­neral one of uniting all the provinces ; it was in fact the only meaſure that could be propoſed with ſafety, and it was proſecuted with that alacrity and addreſs for which William was deſervedly celebrated.

On the 23d of January 1579, deputies from the provin­ces of Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, Frieſland, Groningen, Overyssel, and Guelderland, met at Utrecht, and signed the alliance ever ſince known by the name of the *Union of Utrecht,* the basis of that commonwealth ſo renowned by the appellation of the *United Provinces.* This treaty of alliance was founded upon the infraction of the pacification of Ghent ſolemnly acceded to by Philip, and the late invaſion of cer­tain towns in Guelderland. It was not hereby intended to divide the ſeven provinces from the other ten, or to renounce the pacification of Ghent ; its object was to preſerve the liberty ſtipulated in that pacification, by more vigorous operations, and united councils. The chief articles of this union are the following.

The ſeven provinces ſhall unite themſelves in inereſt as one province, never to be ſeparated or divided by teſtament, donation, exchange, ſale, or agreement ; reſerving to reach particular province and city all its privileges, rights, cuſtoms, and ſtatutes. In all diſputes ariſing between either of the provinces, the rest ſhall interpoſe only as mediators. They ſhall aſſiſt each other with life and fortune againſt every foreign attempt upon any particular province, whether to eſtabliſh ſovereignty, the Catholic religion, arbitrary mea­ſures, or whatever elſe may appear inconſiſtent with the liberties of the provinces and the intention of the alliance. All frontier towns belonging to the United Provinces ſhall,