but the court of Spain had too much confidence in his abi­lity to entrust ſo important a charge to another. In this ſtate of affairs the animoſity of the parties remained, with­out the power of ſhowing their reſentment. The states were reſolute, but unable to defend their liberties. Philip was de­termined, but too weak to be deſpotic ; and both were obli­ged to content themſelves with publishing bitter remonstrances againſt each other.

At last the prince of Orange renewed the treaty with the duke of Anjou. The queen of England was again offered the ſovereignty, but ſhe declined it for political reaſons. The duke of Anjou was, however, oppoſed by a great number of the Reformed, on account of the ſhare his mother had in the horrid massacre of the Proteſtants at Paris. All arguments to remove their prejudices were in vain. Anjou was a Ro­man Catholic, and that alone was ſufficient to render him detestable. The prince of Orange urged the neceſſity of receiving the prince. Theologians and civilians allowed that it was lawful to have recourſe in extremity to a Papist, but the people continued obſtinate. This determined the prince of Orange to have recourſe to the States-general, to whom he ſent a long remonstrance, pointing out the cauſes why the confederacy did not produce thc intended effect; and ex­horting them to re-conſider the affair reſpecting the duke of Anjou. In conſequence, the States-general referred the prince’s remonstrances to the provincial states and cities ; and after long deliberations, and warm debates, it was at length determined, in 1380, to call in the duke of Anjou, as the only reſource in so great a calamity. Accordingly the year began with a ſolemn treaty, whereby the United Provinces renounced their allegiance to Philip, and acknow­ledged Francis Hercules de Valois, duke of Alençon and Anjou, for their ſovereign. The treaty consisted of 27 articles, of which this we have mentioned was the chief. De­puties were ſent to the duke of Anjou, to explain the arti­cles, and congratulate him on his acceſſion. As to the arch­duke Matthias, finding himſelf unſupported by the emperor, the empire, and the numerous friends whom he expected would have joined him on his elevation, he expreſſed no re­ſentment at the conduct of the provinces, which with great moderation he attributed to neceſſity. He only demanded to know their intention with reſpect to his own perſon; and the states made their apology, by repreſenting the ſituation of their affairs, assuring him of their esteem, permitting him to reſide in the Netherlands as long as he thought conveni­ent, and highly applauding the prudence and equity of his conduct during his administration. As to the provinces of Holland and Zealand, they were left wholly in the hands of the prince of Orange, whoſe power as ſtadtholder was in no reſpect limited by the duke’s ſovereignty. After all, Gro­tius affirms, that the duke’s authority was merely nominal, that the real power devolved on the prince of Orange, whoſe name, howevcr, was uſed in all public acts only in a subaltern capacity. It was apparent indeed to the French, that William concealed ambitious views under the cloak of patriotiſm ; but it was not convenient to diſcover their ſentiments.

When the king of Spain was informed of this open de­fection of the Provinces, he attributed the whole to the prince of Orange, and proceeded directly to proſcribe him ; he confiscated his eſtate, upbraided him with ingratitude, and attempted to ſtain his character with ignominy. He even promiſed a reward of 25,000 crowns to whoever ſhould bring him the prince of Orange dead or alive ; the ſame to his heirs, in case the perſon periſhed in the enterpriſe ; and he declared all thoſe proſcribed, their estates confiscated, their honours and dignities aboliſhed, who adhered to William a month after the publication of this edict.

The prince of Orange did not silently paſs over this proſcription. He employed one Villiers, a Frenchman, to re­fute the edict : his anſwer was well received, and is recorded by hiſtorians as a proof of the ſpirit, the equity, the pru­dence, and the moderation of the prince. However, when it was propoſed to the estates for their opinion, with a requeſt they would publiſh it in their own name, they declined it ; aſſigning for a reaſon, that it contained ſome facts too little known to be credited, and perhaps too mach acrimony and reſentment againſt a prince whoſe power they ſtill dread­ed. With theſe recriminations ended the tranſactions of the year.

The following year the states, after long deliberations at the Hague, publiſhed an edict, excluding king Philip from any ſovereignty, right, or authority, over the Netherlands. This writing appeared on the 26th of July 1581, under the title of *The Abdication of Philip king of Spain.* It was extremely well drawn up; ſtated in the ſtrongest manner the mutual privileges of the king and people ; proved that the allegiance of the latter was voided by the breach of contract on the side of the former ; enumerated the oppreſſive and tyrannical acts of his government ; set aſide his authority for the moſt cogent reaſons ; forbad money to be coined in his name ; and took every other step towards independence. It was in vain for Philip to remonstrate: he knew the states were to be convinced only by the ſword ; to this therefore he appealed. The duke of Parma blocked up Cambray ſo cloſely, that the garriſon was reduced to the extremity of living upon horſes, dogs, and cats; though they ſtill refuſed to capitulate, in hopes of being ſuccoured. At length the duke of Anjou assembled a body of 10,00 foot and 4000 horse, and approached Cambray. The viſcount de Turenne and count Voulandois undertook to force themſelves with a body of men into the town ; but they were ſurrounded and taken priſoners by the Spaniards. This diſappointment did not diſcourage the duke of Anjou; he ſtill preſſed forward with intention to attack the Spaniſh lines : but the duke of Parma, not caring to hazard a battle, deserted his works, and retired to Boucham. As ſoon as the duke of Anjou entered the city, he took an oath to govern it agree­able to its ancient laws, and to preſerve the citizens in the full posseſſion of all its liberties. He was now preſſed by the states and the prince of Orange to march directly into Islanders : he endeavoured to comply; but his army, com­poſed chiefly of volunteers, was ſo weakened by deſertion that the deſign was laid aside.

It was about this time that the duke of Anjou reſumed the notion of addressing Elizabeth queen of England. Not deterred by the ill ſucceſs of his former negociation, he de­termined upon a voyage to England ; an excursion which proved equally unſucceſsful to himſelf and unfortunate to the United Provinces, as during his abſence the duke of Parma made himſelf maſter of Tournay, which concluded the tranſactions of this campaign. He was magnificentlyentertained, led into a perſuasion that all would ſucceed according to his wiſh, and at length tired out with tedious expectation. In his abſence, St Guilan was reduced by the prince of Eſpinoi. This general directed his march to­wards Dunkirk, with intention to join the French forces. The duke of Parma, who had notice of his motion, repaired to ſeize the opportunity of inveſting Tournay. He be­gan his approaches, and was vigorouſly received by that gar­riſon, inſpirited by the courage of the princess Maria d’Eſpinoi, niece of the count Horn ſo cruelly beheaded by the duke d’Alva. The town was stormed in breach by the duke of Parma, who ſupported the assailants in perſon, re­ceived a wound, and had the mortification to see his Spa­niards thrown headlong from the walls. The duke of An­-