them in ſubjection. At laſt, in 1606, the courts of Ma­drid and Brussels began to think of peace in good earneſt. In 1607 a ſuſpension of hoſtilities took place, and in 1609 a treaty was concluded. In the firſt article of the treaty, the archduke, in his own and the king of Spain’s name, ac­knowledged the United Provinces, and renounced all claim to ſovereignty over them, but in ſuch general terms as would admit of altercation. In the ſecond, a truce for 12 years, by ſea and land, through all the dominions of both parties, was concluded. By the third article, the parties were to remain in posseſſion of what they now held, without ceſſion or ex­change. In the fourth, a general amneſty was stipulated, and full freedom of trade by ſea and land to each others dominions granted. This necessarily implied a cessation of hoſtilities in the Indies ; however, great debates afterwards aroſe upon this account. Spain obſerving the rapid progreſs of the Hollanders in the India trade, apprehended they would ſoon become too powerful in that quarter ; and the Durch were willing to maintain the advantage of their ſuperiority. Both, for this reaſon, diſputed the article ; yet it could not be ſet aſide without deſtroying the whole treaty, and the fruits of all their laboured conferences. The fifth article regulated the imports, and the duties to be paid by the ſubjects of the archduke and the States, trading to each others dominions, which were to be on the ſame foot­ing with thoſe of other nations. The archduke uſed his utmoſt endeavours to have the duties at Lillo, on the Scheld, aboliſhed, and the commerce of Antwerp reſtored to its for­mer grandeur ; but this was ſo diametrically oppoſite to the intereſt of the Hollanders, that it was impoſſible it ſhould ever take place. The ſixth and ſeventh articles likewiſe re­garded commercial affairs. But it would be unneceſſary to dwell on particulars. Sufficient is it, that the truce was mu­tually beneficial, Spain being no longer in condition to ſupport the war, and the Hollanders having obtained the end of all their deſperate resiſtance and invincible perſeverance in the cauſe of liberty. Philip of Nassau, by the truce, entered into posseſſion of all his paternal estates in the Spaniſh Nether­lands and Burgundy ; while the States rewarded the faith­ful ſervices of Maurice with a pension of 25,000 florins, to be paid annually out of the public treaſury, beſides an ap­pointment of 60,000 francs as governor general. Pensions were likewiſe ſettled on the other princes of the house of Nassau : all were gratified in a manner that demonstrated the high ſenſe the republic had of their merit, though they might poſſibly be diſappointed in their great design of raiſing prince Maurice to the ſovereign authority

No sooner were the Dutch freed from this extreme dan­ger, and felt the bleſſings of liberty, than dissentions among themſelves took place. The diſputes betwixt the Arminians and Calviniſts produced violent diſturbances, which fre­quently ended in the perſecution of the former. In 1621 war was renewed with Spain ; and it may be remarked, that during the whole courſe of it, the ſubjects of the republic traded to the Spaniſh ports, as if there had been an entire friendſhip ſubſiſting between the two nations. It was no uncommon practice with them to ſupply towns with provision that were beſieged by their own armies ; and to furniſh the enemy with ammunition and other neceſſaries, with­out which they could not carry en the war. Their motive and apology for this conduct was, that thus they kept in their own hands the profits by which other nations would be enriched. By ſteadily purſuing this line of conduct, making as many prizes as they could by force, and at the ſame time making as much profit of their enemies as could be obtained by a lucrative trade, it is no wonder that the republic ſhould flouriſh, and rival in wealth the greateſt na­tions of Europe. In 1628 the Spaniards met with a dread­ful blow by the capture of their fiota from Mexico. This was the greateſt prize the Hollanders had ever met with ; being valued at no leſs than 15,000,000 livres. From this time the Spaniards were everywhere defeated and baffled in almoſt every enterprize they undertook ; nevertheleſs, they carried on the war, with an obſtinacy hardly to be matched, for 20 years longer. At laſt, in 1648, a treaty was concluded, by which his Catholic Majeſty renounced all right and ſove­reignty over the Lords the States-general of the United Provinces, who were henceforth declared a free and inde­pendent republic, and that both ſides ſhould remain in the unmoleſted posseſſion of what they held ſeverally at the ſigning of the treaty.

From this time to the year 1670 we meet with nothing very remarkable in the hiſtory of the United Provinces. By invariably purſuing the maxims of prudence, induſtry, and frugality, the republic had attained the higheſt pitch of grandeur. Amſterdam was become the emporium of Europe, and the richeſt city in the univerſe. Holland alone contained 3,000,000 of souls, and all the other pro­vinces were proportionably populous. The States diſpatched minſters and conſuls to China, Siam, and Bengal, to the Great Mogul, the king of Perſia, the khan of Tartary, the Grand Signior, the czar of Muſcovy, and the princes of Africa. They were considered as an important weight in the ſcale of Europe, and no treaty was concluded without their ambassadors. The triple alliance with England and Sweden, into which they had entered, gave Louis ſuſpicion that they propoſed to ſet bounds to his ambition, and clip thoſe bold opinions which had ſo ſwiftly conveyed his conqueſts over the Low Countries. Van Beuningen’s inſolence, in comparing himſelf to Joshua stopping the courſe of the ſun, which was the French king’s device, highly diſguſted his majeſty ; who was ſhocked at the preſumption and pride of a republic juſt ſtarted out of obſcurity, and gained, in the ſpace of a century, from the ocean. But what was ſtill more alarming to Louis, was the probability that the Dutch would ruin the manufactures of France, and his new eſtabliſhed commerce of the Indies. His jealouſy diſcovered itſelf in divers inſtances ; and the penſioner De Witt, who at that time had the leading of affairs, his brother, and his party, did all in their power to remove theſe prejudices ; but the unhappy differences which then prevailed in the United Provinces fruſtrated all their en­deavours.

Louis now sought every opportunity of breaking with the Dutch ; leſs perhaps from any dread of their power, or ability to injure him, than with a view to enlarge his dominions by the entire conqueſt of the Low Countries. He knew that the whole ſtrength of the republic conſiſted in her marine ; that her frontier was weak, her provinces divided, and the chief power in the hands of men inveterately ſet againſt the family of Orange, the ancient captains of the republic. His firſt attempt was to diſſolve the tri­ple alliance, and diſengage from it Charles II. king of Eng­land. In this buſiness the ducheſs of Orleans was employed: ſhe went to England under pretence of visiting the king her brother ; and her negociation was ſucceſsful. In the mean time Louis possessed himſelf of Lorrain, under pretence that duke Charles was forming alliances in the empire againſt France.

The following year was ſpent in negociations with the emperor, Spain, and Sweden, with the electors of Cologne and Brandenburg, with the biſhop of Munſter, and other ſpiritual and German princes. The design of Louis was to prevent their acceding to the triple alliance ; from which he had already weaned one power, the moſt considerable of the whole. The biſhop of Munſter beheld with uneasiness