the prince of Conde, which disabled him for ſome time from attending the ſervice, and obliged him to reſign the com­mand of his army to Turenne.

It is almoſt incredible with what rapidity towns and fortresses yielded to the fortune of his majeſty’s arms. The reduction of Betau, the moſt fruitful country of the United Provinces, and the ſurrender of Tolhus fort, obliged the prince of Orange to abandon the Issel, lest he ſhould be attacked in the rear, and to retire to the very heart of the country, as far as Rhenen, in the province of Utrecht. By this means the town of Arnheim, the sorts of Knotſemborough, Voorn, St André, and Shenck, this laſt, the strongest in the Netherlands (having coſt the great Henry Frederic prince of Orange a ſeven months ſiege), with a variety of other sorts and towns, ſurrendered as ſoon as ſummoned ; and at laſt Nimeguen, a town ſtrong from the nature of the works and fortifications, and garriſoned by 8000 fighting men, including the inhabitants, was inverted. After the citizens had for eight days exhibited ſignal proofs of courage in defence of their liberties, they were forced to yield to the ſuperior skill of Turenne.

In the mean time the biſhop of Munſter and elector of Cologne, having joined that body of troops under the com­mand of the duke of Luxemburgh, the united army entered the province of Overyssel, and by dint of cruelty, and ter­ror which the duke spread, reduced the towns as ſoon as be appeared before them. Animated by that implacable rage that conſtantly attends religious wars, the two prelates obliged the duke to exert a ſeverity, by no means ſuited to his nature, againſt heretics and the rebellious ſubjects of the houſe of Austria. Next the king’s forces penetrated into the province of Utrecht, where their conquests went on with the same rapidity, and put the capital of the pro­vince in the utmoſt danger. To retard its fate, the Dutch could imagine no other expedient than opening their ſluices, and overflowing the country. The other towns followed the example of Utrecht ; and Holland, Brabant, and Dutch Flanders, was one vaſt lake, the towns rising like islands in the midst of the waters. Farther to ſtem the torrent of Louis’s conqueſts, the people were perſuaded the only bar­rier was to lodge the ſupreme power in the hands of the prince of Orange. They accordingly obliged the ſtates of Holland and West Friesland to unite the dignity of ſtadt- holder to thoſe of captain general and high-admiral, with which the prince was already inverted. They likewiſe ſent remonstrances ſo pathetic to the king of England, that Charles, moved with the situation of the republic, and jea­lous of the deſigns of Louis, diſpatched the duke of Buck­ingham and earl of Arlington into Holland, to quiet the fears of the Dutch, and inſiſt upon the king’s penetrating no farther into Holland. In case of Louis’s refusal, Charles declared he would break the alliance ; as he perceived that, instead of securing Zealand to the Engliſh, agreeable to the treaty, the deſigns of France were to unite the whole republic to their own monarchy. His most Chriſtian majesty had in fact no great regard to the menaces of his ally : but as perſiſting obſtinately to advance into a country which the inundation rendered impassable, might terminate in the ruin of all his schemes, he ſeemed, out of compliment to the king of England, to listen to terms of accommodation ; which, after all his victories, could not fail of proving ad­vantageous. In the ſpace of three months he had conquered the provinces of Guelderland, Overyssel, and Utrecht, taken about 50 towns and forts, and made 24,000 priſoners. Conde and Turenne adviſed his majeſty to send the pri­soners to work upon the canal of Languedoc, and to leave all the places that were not essential to the preſervation of his conquests ; the miniſter Louvois was of a different opi­nion, and his ſentiments determined the king. The priſoners were releaſed for a trifling ranſom, and the king’s army totally reduced and exhauſted by the continual drains made to garrison the conquered places.

A negociation was ſet on foot at Boxtel, near Bois-le- duc, whither the king, attended by the Engliſh ambassadors and the Dutch deputies, repaired : but the terms required of the republic were ſo hard, that they were rejected with diſdain by the Dutch ; who, animated by their ſtadtholder, resolved to wait a change of fortune in the midſt of the waters. They uſed every expedient to rouſe the princes of Germany in their defence ; and ſo ſucceſsfully, that the elector of Brandenburg, the neareſt and moſt intererted prince, prepared to take the field. The undaunted courage, the vigilance, the public ſpirit of the prince of Orange, gained him the entire confidence and affection of the repub­lic ; and excited their reſentment againſt the two brothers De Witts, his implacable enemies, whom they accuſed of receiving penſions from Louis. The ſuggeſtion was falſe ; but poſſibly their love of liberty, and jealouſy of the houſe of Orange, had carried thoſe two great politicians too far in their pacific meaſures and complaiſance to the power of the French monarch. The pensionary was attacked in the ſtreet by the populace ; but by his perſonal bravery broke through the crowd, and ſaved his life, though covered with wounds. Soon after the ſedition broke out afreſh, and the partisans of the houſe of Orange again ſtirred up the animoſity of the republic againſt the De Witts. Several crimes were laid to the penſioner’s charge, but he cleared himſelf. Suborned witneſſes accuſed his brother of an attempt to poiſon the prince of Orange. Cornelius was imprisoned and treated with great barbarity. While he was under the tor­ture, he ſung that ode of Horace, J*uſtum et tenacem propositi virum.* His brother took him out of priſon after sentence of baniſhment was pronounced ; the tumult roſe high, and both the De Witts were cruelly torn in pieces in the ſtreets. William of Orange ſeemed touched at this terrible ſacrifice; he made the pensionary’s eulogium, and ordered the mur­derers to be proſecuted ; however, the clemency he ſhowed them, the advantages he obtained by the massacre, and the animoſity he bore the De Witts, convinced all men that he countenanced the murder.

William of Orange, in the mean time, daily ingratiated himſelf more. He gave up his whole fortune for the ſafety of the ſtate ; and exerted himſelf with ſuch prudence and ability, that all Europe began to unite againſt the two kings by the month of July. Every prince in Germany was in motion to ſuccour the Dutch. The emperor, the king of Denmark, the elector of Brandenburg, the duke of Brunſwick Lunenburg, the landgrave of Hesse, immediately or­dered their troops to join ; ſeveral of the other princes were preparing to take the field. All were jealous, England be­gan to waver, and there was not a power in Europe upon whom Louis XIV. could heartily rely. The arm of Bran­denburg, commanded by the elector in perſon, and the for­ces of the empire under the famous Montecuculi, joined near Heidelſheim, and compoſed a body of 45,000 men. Turenne, now appointed generaliſſimo of the king’s army on his majeſty’s return to Paris, marched to oppoſe the enemy's paſsing the Rhine. For three whole months were the elector and Montecuculi employed in abortive attempts to effect a pasſage at Mentz, Coblentz, Straſburgh, and other places. This anſwered the purpoſe of making a powerful diverſion in favour of the Dutch, though they could not accompliſh their design of joining the prince of Orange. After re­peated diſappointments, the Imperial army directed its march to Weſtphalia ; and Turenne followed, in order to keep the biſhop of Munſter ſteady to his engagements. For half the cam­-