paign, he, with a body of 16,000 men, baffled every ſtratagem of the elector and Montecuculi, the latter the moſt re­nowned general of the empire, at the head of an army near triple his strength. He obliged them to *go into* winter-quarters, in a country harassed and exhauſted ; and confirm­ed the biſhop of Munſter in the alliance of France, at the very time he was on terms with the emperor. He obli­ged the elector of Brandenburg, who took the chief com­mand during Montecuculi’s illneſs, to abandon the liege of Werle ; took Unna, Kamen, Altena, Berkembam, and ſeve­ral other towns and fortresses. By continuing his opera­tions, he forced the elector out of his winter-quarters again into the field, chased him from post to poſt, until he obliged him to quit Weſtphalia, repaſs the Weſer, and retire with precipitation into the biſhopric of Hildeſheim. After ta­king poſſeſſion of the elector’s towns in Westphalia, he purſued him into the biſhopric of Hildeſheim ; and at length, by mere dint of ſuperior genius, forced him to ſeek ſhelter in his hereditary dominions. All this was effected after Louvois had appointed the marſhal’s army quarters in Alſace and Lor­rain, amidſt the rigours of a ſevere winter, oppoſed by a ſu­perior enemy, by the artifices of Louvois, and ſeconded only by his own prudence, and the affections of his troops which he maintained in defiance all the difficulties, hardſhips, and dangers, they encountered. It was indeed ſuppoſed, that Montecuculi was prevented from giving Turenne battle by the remonſtrances of prince Lobkowitz, the emperor’s ambaſſador, influenced by the gold of Louis. Certain in­deed it is, that Montecuculi’s illness aroſe from his chagrin at seeing all his projects fruſtrated by the unſteady dilatory conduct of the court of Vienna. Louis’s negotiations diſturbed Europe no leſs than his arms. His tools and crea­tures ſwarmed in every court. Leopold could not be pre­vented from declaring in favour of Holland ; but his miniſters were bought off from ſeconding the emperor’s intentions. The whole Engliſh nation exclaimed againſt the alliance of their king with France ; but Charles stood in need of French gold to ſupply his extravagance and profligacy. The elec­tor of Bavaria had indeed been compelled by Louis to retire to his capital ; but it was by dint of intrigue that he was forced from his alliance with Holland, and conſtrained to ſign a peace with France.

While Turenne was thus employed on the Rhine, Conde having recovered of his wounds, returned to the command of the army in Holland. He beſieged and took Maestricht in 13 days. Having repaired the fortifications, he propoſed making himſelſ maſter of ſeveral other towns ; but the inun­dations everywhere stopped his courſe. All his attempts to draw off the waters were in vain ; and he was, forced to con­tent himſelf with preſerving, without pretending to extend, the king’s conqueſts.

Whatever glory the king might have acquired by land, certain it is that the conduct of his admirals deſerved equal praiſe with that of his generals. In little more than 12 months the French were taught the art of naval war. Before, they fought ſhip to ſhip ; but underſtood nothing of thoſe evolutions by which whole fleets imitate the movements of armies. The duke of York, afterwards James II. invented the method of giving all orders at ſea by means of ſignals : this and every other part of the art the French borrowed from the Engliſh ; and became ſo apt ſcholars, that they ventured to give battle to the Hollanders, the great rivals of the English on that element. Their fleet, amounting to 40 ſail, beſides fire-ſhips, joined to the Engliſh, gave battle three dif­ferent times to the Dutch. De Ruyter gained additional glory in theſe engagements ; and D’Eſtrees the French ad­miral gained the eſteem of De Ruyter.

In the mean time, Spain declares in favour of the Dutch; and prevails upon the emperor to act more heartily in the cauſe of Holland, and defence of the liberties of Europe. The prince of Orange was reinforced by 10,000 Spaniards, ſent to him by the governor of the Low Countries. Philip had concluded a treaty with the States at the Hague, whereby he declared war againſt France, engaged the empe­ror to make a powerful diverſion on the Rhine, ſtipulated not to accept of peace before the Dutch had retrieved all their loſſes, and obtained from them a promiſe to liſten to no terms of accommodation before his Catholic majeſty was reinſtated in all his posseſſions in the Low Countries, pre­vious to the peace of the Pyrenees. Montecuculi was or­dered to advance with 30,000 men to Franconia ; and Turenne, joining the troops of Cologne and Munſter, passes the Main, and took port in the electorate of Meutz, The prince of Orange receiving no impediment from Conde, who was forced on account of the inundations to repaſs the Meuſe, thought this a proper time for action, as the enemy had no considerable forces in the heart of the United Pro­vinces. He ordered ſome troops to file off ſecretly to Am­ſterdam and Muyden ; lined with infantry the intrenchments which ſecured the partage to Holland ; and to deceive the duke of Luxemburgh, who commanded in Utrecht, ſent ſome forces by ſea to attack Bommel. The duke, not pe­netrating the prince’s design, came to ſuccour the place ; and William, finding his ſtratagem ſucceed, marched to Naerden, and with 25,000 men inverted and took the place before the duke could provide for its ſecurity. Upon this ſucceſs, the Dutch took courage, fortune inclined in their, favour, and in a ſhort time all the horrors of war were removed from the interior parts of the United Provinces to the Spaniſh Netherlands. Neither the experience nor conſummate addreſs of Turenne, the genius of Vauban, or the indefatigable vigilance of Louvois, could repair the error committed in ruining the army to garriſon the conquered towns. Even Conde’s fire ſeemed extinguiſhed in the wa­ters with which the Dutch had drowned their country. Inſtead of penetrating farther, he was obliged to retreat. Turenne could not prevent the junction of Montecuculi and the prince of Orange, nor the loſs of Bonne. This junc­tion, and the declaration of Spain, obliged the armies of France to abandon the three provinces with still more rapi­dity than they had conquered them. The triumphal arch at St Dennis was hardly erected as a monument of Louis’s victories, before the fruits of thoſe victories were relinquiſhed. In a word, the parliament of England would no long­er suffer Charles to be the mercenary tool of France; the late ill ſucceſs cooled the elector of Cologne and the biſhop of Munſter in their friendſhip ; and Louis, forſaken by all his allies, found himſelf under the neceſſity of maintaining ſingly a war againſt the empire, Spain, and the United Pro­vinces.

From that time the United Provinces have been distinguiſhed among the European nations as a very considerable maritime and commercial power. Their connection with Britain by the Revolution in 1688, when William III. ſtadtholder of Holland became king of this iſland, brought on a much cloſer connection between the two nations than had ever taken place before. By means of this connection, William formed a plan of humbling his great adversary Louis XIV. who had ſo lately brought his country to the verge of ruin. For this purpoſe he renewed the war in 1689, and commanded the army in perſon. However, he was overmatched by the abilities of Luxemburg the French general ; who oppoſed him, and obliged him to conclude a peace in 1697. His enmity to the French king, however, was not yet extinguiſhed. The remaining part of his life he employed in forming the moſt powerful confederacy