ſtrate retired towards the river Ens. But being hard puſhed by the duke of Alva, and mutinies ariſing among their troops for want of pay, they were ſoon brought to an ac­tion, and totally defeated. The infantry were entirely cut in pieces ; the cavalry were ſaved, but all the baggage and artillery were taken by the enemy. In the mean time, the prince of Orange was haſtening to the relief of his diſtressed allies with an army of 28,000 men ; but having the misfor­tune of being alſo defeated, and count Hoogstrate killed in the action, his ſoldiers deſerted in such crowds, that he was at laſt obliged to diſband his army and return to Germany.

This diſaſter happened in the year 1569. The duke of Alva reſolved to make the moſt of his time. He entered Bruſſels in triumph ; and let looſe his vengeance againſt all who had in the leaſt aſſiſted, or been ſuppoſed to aſſiſt, the prince of Orange. All the priſoners taken in the laſt cam­paign were put to death : and, not contented with this barbarity, the cruel governor projected nothing leſs than the total extirpation of the reformed religion, by the deſtruction of every one who profeſſed it ; and of rendering himſelf deſpotic, by erecting citadels in all the conſiderable towns, which were to be garriſoned by his ſoldiers. He began with Amſterdam, in which he laid the foundations of a ſtrong citadel. The people complained of it as an infringe­ment of their rights, but the duke was deaf to their com­plaints. At Antwerp he cauſed his ſtatue to be erected ; and here he was figured treading on the necks of two smaller ſtatues, which repreſented the two eſtates of the Low Countries. This piece of inſolent vanity exaſperated the people to a great degree ; and they were ſtill farther provoked by a demand of the hundredth part of every man’s eſtate to be paid immediately for the ſupport of the army, besides the tenth of all the merchandiſe, and the twentieth of all immoveables, to be annually levied as a ſtanding re­venue. The provinces remonſtrated, and refilled to ſubmit to ſuch intolerable exactions : the governor was infle­xible ; and being incenſed at their resiſtance, he ſent the re­giment of Lombardy to live at free quarters in the province of Utrecht.

All this time the prince of Orange was employed in lay­ing plans for the deliverance of his diſtressed country ; but in 1571, the duke of Alva growing impatient, ordered the edict concerning the new taxes to be publiſhed at Brussels. The city was inſtantly filled with confuſion ; the ſoldiers ſeized on the goods of the inhabitants by force ; tradeſmen ſhut up their ſhops ; and the peaſants refuſed to bring proviſions to the market. The ſtates offered to pay a ſubſidy of 2,000,000 of florins annually in lieu of the intended tax ; but their offer was rejected. The drum beat to arms, and orders were issued to hang all who refuſed to comply. The ſoldiers were preparing to obey, when news arrived of the surrender of Briel in the iſland of Voorn, at the entrance of the Meuſe, to a ſquadron of ſhips of war that had been fitted out by the prince of Orange. Lumey, who com­manded the squadron, made a deſcent on the iſland from 40 ſhips, deſtroyed the churches, broke the images, and exe­cuted the prieſts, but offered no violence to the other inha­bitants.

However unimportant the conqueſt of ſo inconſiderable a place might appear, it alarmed the duke of Alva, and produced the moſt extravagant rejoicings in Bruſſels. The duke regarding it as the harbinger of further oppoſition, dropped his taxes and executions for the present, and dili­gently applied himſelf to ſuppreſe the growing ſpirit of re­bellion. He withdrew the garriſon from Bruſſels, and de­tached it under the command of Maximilian Hermin Bossu, againſt the ſhips of war which were called *Gueux.* This of­ficer, endeavouring to force Briel, was defeated by the Orange faction, and forced to retire with loſs to the iſland of Beyerland. Trifling as this victory might ſeem, it ſerved to animate the depressed ſpirits of the enemies to the go­vernment. The prince of Orange, sensible of the advantage of poſſeſſing this iſland, exhorted the nobility of his party to fortify and garriſon it ; his orders were obeyed, by which means he ſoon became master of Delfshaben, a town ſituated on the oppoſite banks of the Meuſe. It appeared in Boſſu’s retreat how unpopular the duke of Alva was in every part of the country. Dordrecht ſhut its gates againſt him; Rotterdam refuſed to admit his troops ; but Bossu obtain­ing permiſſion that they ſhould paſs through in ſeparate ſmall diviſions, ſeized the gates, and began a general massacre of the inhabitants. Four hundred periſhed by the ſword, the town was pillaged, the women were raviſhed, and every poſ­ſible act of barbarity and inhumanity committed. Re­tribution was ſoon made by the enemy. Alva had detach­ed Ossorio d’ Angulo with a body of forces to ſecure Fluſhing, a conſiderable port in Zealand, and to erect a citadel. The inhabitants denied Ossorio admittance, ſhut their gates, and ſeized Pacaneo, a famous engineer, who had come to meaſure the ground where the citadel was to be erected. Apprehending that attempts would be made to force them to ſubmiſſion, they petitioned Lumey, admiral of the Gueux, for aſſiſtance ; and he furniſhed them with 200 men, under the command of Captain Treſlong. On the arrival of this reinforcement, the Spaniſh engineer was hanged, and an unſucceſsful attempt made to ſurpriſe Middleburg, the capital of the iſland of Walcheren. Not diſpirited by this diſappointment, the Zealanders aſſiduouſly proſecuted their cruizes upon the Spaniards, and obtained as much wealth as purchaſed a large ſtore of arms and ammunition at Ant­werp. Joined by great numbers of Engliſh and Scotch ad­venturers, they ventured to attack the duke of Medina Celi, ſent with a ſtrong ſquadron to ſucceed the duke of Alva in the government of the Netherlands. The duke was com­pletely defeated, a great number of his ſhips were taken, and a booty, amounting to near 1,000,000 livres, was car­ried off by the Zealanders.

The duke of Alva now ordered a ſquadron of ſhips to be equipped at Amſterdam, to bridle the inſolence of Lumey and the Zealanders, while he buſied himſelf in raiſing an army to oppoſe the prince of Orange and Lewis de Naſſau, who were making great preparations in Germany and France. To augment the army in the field, he had draught­ed moſt of the garriſons. By this means the prince’s friends gained posseſſion of North Holland ; and Louis de Nassau was projecting a ſcheme to ſurpriſe Mons, with the inhabi­tants of which he held a ſecret correſpondence. The design ſucceeded ; which emboldened moſt of the cities and towns in Holland to declare againſt the government. The count de Bergues gained over ſeveral cities in Overyssel, Guelderland, and Frieſland. In a word, the revolt became ſo general, that the duke of Alva ſoon found he could not long reſiſt the torrent. He now, when too late, publiſhed an edict to appeaſe the people, ſetting forth, that he would conſent to remit the moſt oppreſſive taxes, if the ſtates could ſuggeſt any other means of raiſing the necessary ſupplies. He convoked the States-general to meet at the Hague, but his orders were now disregarded ; and the States, in contempt of his authority, assembled at Dordrecht, inviting deputies from the prince of Orange, the nobility, and the towns that had declared againſt the governor. Here mo­ney was raised to enable the prince of Orange to begin his march. His forces amounted to 15,000 foot and 7000 horſe. He had promiſed to advance three months pay ; and was enabled to perform his engagements by the libe­rality and public ſpirit of the States-general and the cities.