He ſhowed the addreſs with which he could manage and direct the people ; and without the name of ſovereign of the provinces under his government, he possessed the authority. He preſided at all military operations by ſea and land; made and diſpoſed of offices at pleaſure ; assembled the States ; and publiſhed all ordonnances and regulations relative to the preſent ſtate of affairs, without controul. However, he conducted matters with the utmoſt delicacy, and uſed his power with great moderation, to avoid giving offence to the free ſpirit of the Hollanders. The Popish religion was baniſhed the churches, and perſons of that perſuaſion were, with great caution, admitted into public employments. Not only the king’s revenue and church tythes were appropriated to the public ſervice, but the eſtates of thoſe who remained firm in their loyalty. In ſhort, the moſt vigorous meaſures were taken for reſiſting the tyranny of Spain ; and thoſe perſons who had refuſed the tythes to the government, vo­luntarily ſubſcribed their all to ſupport a party formed in de­fence of liberty.

While the States general were employed in ways and means to maintain an army, the prince of Orange advanced to Ruremonde, which he took by aſſault, on the refuſal of the city to ſupply him with necessaries. From thence he marched to Brabant, and raised heavy contributions. He took Mechlin, Oudenarde, and Dendermonde ; and could not reſtrain the exceſſes of the ſoldiers, who pillaged the churches, massacred the prieſts, and committed other barba­rities. Next he approached to Mons, beſieged by the duke of Alva, with deſign, if poſſible, to engage him to give battle. The duke baffled all his endeavours to force him, and carried Mons by capitulation. The whole Spanish do­minion, however, lately ſo inſolent and exulting, was ready to expire in the Netherlands, had it not been revived by the massacre of the Proteſtants in Paris.

While the fate of Mons was depending, the ſtates of Hol­land met at Haarlem, to deliberate on the defence of the province and the proſecution of the war. Amſterdam was in the enemy’s hands, which greatly obſtructed all their meaſures. It was therefore determined to besiege it ; and the enterpriſe was committed to Lumey, chief of the Gueux. After putting the States to conſiderable expence, the project miſcarried through Lumey’s miſconduct. Wa­ter was his element, but his vanity led him to diſplay his abi­lities as a land-officer. He made regular approaches, and was foiled in every attempt.

The reduction of Mons, and the depreſſion of ſpirit conſequent on the massacre at Paris, obliged the prince of Orange to retire to Holland, and encouraged Alva to inveſt Dendermonde, Oudenarde, and Mechlin. The latter, be­ing in no condition to resiſt, opened its gates ; but the Spa­niſh ſoldiers choſe to ſcale the walls, to give an air of aſſault to the enterpriſe, and countenance to the horrid barbarities intended. Proteſtants and Catholics were massacred without diſtinction. The town was pillaged, and the booty eſtimated at 400,000 florins. All the other towns were evacuated by the garriſons, and loaded with heavy impoſitions by Al­va. As to the prince, he had now removed the ſeat of war into the province of Holland. Only this province and Zea­land remained firm to their engagements ; the reſt, overwhelmed with conſternation, capitulated on the best terms they could procure from the government. However, the country being ſtrong by its nature and ſituation among the waters, and more ſo by a fierce, rough, and ſturdy people, proud of their ancient fame, and the moſt implacable ene­mies of Spaniſh tyranny, it was determined to make the moſt vigorous reſiſtance. Frederic de Toledo was diſpatched by Alva to begin the operations in Holland. He had already reduced Zutphen and Guelderland; and, fluſhed with ſucceſs, appeared before Waerden, which he ſummoned to admit a garriſon. The burghers replied, that they were intruſted by the king with the defence of the place, and could not receive a military force without violence to their privileges and engagements. They ſoon had reaſon to re­pent their firmneſs : thc town was taken by ſurpriſe ; and all the burghers, assembled in the great church to take the oaths of fidelity to the king, were wantonly butchered. In­fants, old men, women, and the ſick, were all put to the ſword, without pity or remorſe ; and of all the barbarities hitherto committed, this was the moſt horrible. It was ima­gined that the terror inſpired by ſuch inſtances of ſeverity, would reduce the people to obedience, and ſhake the obſtinacy of the other towns. The contrary effects were pro­duced ; rage and deſpair took poſſeſſion of every breaſt; and all determined to ſuffer the laſt extremities rather than ſubmit to ſo cruel a tyranny.

Having finiſhed this tragedy, Frederic went to Amſter­dam, to deliberate with the officers of the army about the ſiege of Haarlem. Here it was determined, before they pro­ceeded to extremities, that the city of Amſterdam ſhould write to the magiſtrates, exhorting them, in the moſt pathe­tic terms, to ſubmit, rather than incur the puniſhment in­flicted on Waerden. The council of Haarlem met to take this letter into conſideration. Some were for ſoliciting an immediate reinforcement from the prince of Orange ; and others, who apprehended the prince was too weak to afford the neceſſary relief, were for making the beſt terms poſſible with the king. Thoſe of the latter opinion were the magi­ſtrates. Accordingly, without consulting the burghers, de­puties were diſpatched to Frederic to ſtipulate conditions. In their abſence, Ripperda, a gentleman of Friſeland, ſtrongly attached to the prince of Orange and the cauſe of liberty, assembled the chief burghers ; and ſo animated them againſt the Spaniards, that they reſolved to ſtand a ſiege, and ſuffer all the horrors of war, rather than ſubmit. They ſent to the prince of Orange to acquaint him with their determi­nation, and to implore aſſiſtance. Four companies of Germans were detached to reinforce the garriſon of Haarlem ; and the deputies, on their return, were ſeized as traitors to their country, ſent to the prince of Orange, and by his order be­headed. Frederic was preparing to compel the burghers to ſubmiſſion. On the 19th of December he inverted the town, after carrying Sparendem fort by aſſault, with great loſs and slaughter of his ſoldiers. A variety of errors were committed in the attack, in the defence, and manner of succouring Haarlem. The assailants and defendants had equal­ly ſhown themſelves ignorant of the art of war, and impla­cable in their reſentment. The prince of Orange uſed eve­ry expedient to relieve the town ; but all his attempts were fruſtrated by untoward accidents, and the vigilance of the Spaniards. At laſt, quite ſpent with fatigue, deſpairing of relief, weakened by losses, and totally exhauſted of proviſions and ammunition, the burghers of Haarlem ſurrendered upon more favourable terms than they could well expect. A few only of the moſt obſtinate were executed ; the reſt were par­doned on taking an oath of fidelity, and paying an acknowledgment of 15,000 florins.

During the ſiege of Haarlem, the Zealanders were per­forming glorious atchievements by ſea, and gaining victories over the Spaniſh naval armaments. All the efforts of the governor of Antwerp could not prevent their carrying off a great number of ſhips out of the harbour. To revenge the inſult, and relieve Middleburg and Rammekins blocked up by the Zealanders, he equipped a ſquadron, and gave battle to Wertz, the Zealand admiral, but was defeated. After repairing and augmenting his fleet, he again ſet sail with ſixty large vessels, encountered a ſquadron of Zealanders