jou repeatedly promiſed ſuccours ; but either forgot, or could not perform his engagements : the latter indeed is the moſt probable ; as he was certainly a dupe to the ſuperior policy of Elizabeth, who had not yet declared openly in favour of the States. In the end, deſpairing of relief, haraſſed with perpetual watching, and weakened by loſſes, the garriſon capitulated on the 29th of November. The conditions were honourable ; and the princeſs d’Eſpinoi was treated with particular marks of diſtinction by the duke of Parma, who highly eſteemed the heroic qualities of this amazon. This advantage was succeeded by another, ob­tained by the Spaniſh general Verdugo, over the confede­rate army in Friesland, commanded by general Norris and William Lewis of Naſſau, a young prince of great expecta­tion. It appears from the Spaniſh account, that Norris was attacked in a defile, where he could not draw out his troops in battalia ; and that he was put in confuſion, and defeated with great loss. On the other hand, the Dutch writers allege, that he attacked the enemy ; but being in­ferior to them in cavalry, retreated in good order, with ſcarce any loſs.

The year 1582 began with a ſpectacle very unuſual in the Netherlands, the public entry of a sovereign elected by the people. The duke or Anjou ſetting sail from England on the 8th day of February, arrived on the 10th at Flushing, where he was received by the princes of Orange and d’Eſpinoi. Next day they let out for Antwerp with a magnificent retinue, and went up the Scheld attended by 50 barges. His reception at Antwerp was ſplendid beyond any thing ever ſeen in the provinces ; they even exceeded the preparations made for Philip himſelf on his being ap­pointed to the government in the Netherlands by Charles V. his father. A theatre was erected before the walls of the citadel, in which was placed a chair of ſtate, covered with cloth of gold. There the duke was ſeated, and the con­ditions were read to him, upon which he was received as duke of Brabant. When he had ſworn to obſerve the ar­ticles, he was clothed with the ducal robe, and his head a- dorned with the ducal coronet by the prince of Orange ; who ſaid, “ I will pin it in ſuch a manner that it will not be eaſily ſhaken :” an expreſſion which at that time was taken for a happy omen, though it soon proved fallacious.

While the ſtates of Brabant were employed in feſtivity and mirth, a Biſcayan merchant, named *Gaſper Anastra,* had contrived a project to redeem his ſhattered fortune by the death of the prince of Orange. He corrupted one of his domeſtics, by the promiſe of half the reward, to ſtrike the blow. The aſſaſſin entered the citadel ; and as the prince was paſſing after dinner into another room, discharged **a** piſtol, and dangerouſly wounded him behind the ear. The prince was ſtunned with the force of the ball, and before he recovered the assassin was killed by his attendants ;. which prevented for a time the absolute discovery of the plot, though it afterwards appeared from circumſtances. It was traced that he had confessed the ſecret to a Dominican named *Antonio Tunmermon,* receiving from the wicked prieſt absolution, and a promiſe of eternal reward. Tunmermon was hanged, drawn, and quartered, his limbs being fixed upon the walls of Antwerp. But though for this time the prince eſcaped the danger, he was in 1584 assaſſinated at Delft, by one Balthazar Gerrard or Guion, a person who had before ſerved his highness with fidelity and zeal. He was at that very time employed by the prince to carry let­ters into France, and had received money to bear his expences, with which he purchaſed piſtols to murder his bene­factor. At the criminal’s examination, it appeared that he had long meditated this bloody action, and was confirmed in his resolution by the Jesuits and Catholic prieſts; he even affirmed on the rack, that the duke of Parma was privy to the deſign, who promiſed he ſhould have the reward : upon the whole, Gerrard ſeems to have been an enthuſiaſt, and his crime the result rather of inſanity, than of any concerted ſcheme, or malicious intention. His puniſhment, however, regarded only the action : it was cruel beyond meaſure, ſhocking to humanity, and a ſtriking inſtance of the vehe­ment party-ſpirit of the times; not of the juſtice of the judges, or the attachment of the people to the prince of Orange.

The United Provinces were now in a moſt deplorable ſituation. The duke of Anjou had been totally unable to reſiſt the duke of Parma, in conſequence of which many towns had been taken ; and in other respects the ſtates had ſuſtained immense loſſes. The duke of Anjou, chagrined and diſappointed, had retired to France, where he died. But above all, the loſs of the prince of Orange ſeemed to give the finiſhing ſtroke to the affairs of the ſtates ; and confuſion and anarchy now reigned in their councils. The provinces of Zealand and Holland alone endeavoured to re­pair the loſs, and ſhow their gratitude to William by elect­ing his son Maurice their ſtadtholder and captain-general by ſea and land. Maurice was at that time only 18 years of age ; but appeared in every reſpect worthy of the high dignity which had been conferred upon him. The firſt ſtep taken by the confederates was a solemn renewal of the treaty of Utrecht ; after which the moſt vigorous preparations were made for the defence of the country. But before any thing of conſequence could be done, the duke of Parma had reduced Liſkenſhouk, Dendermonde, Vilvorde, Ghent, and Antwerp ; which ſtruck the ſtates with ſuch terror, that they again offered the sovereignty to queen Elizabeth. This was once more refuſed ; though that princeſs engaged, by a new treaty, to aſſiſt the ſtates both with men and money. An army was accordingly ſent into the Netherlands under the command of the earl of Leiceſter : but it does not ap­pear that this was of any essential ſervice to the cauſe ; for the conduct of that general was ſo exceedingly improper, that he was not only baffled in every military enterpriſe, but drew upon himſelf a general odium. It is very pro­bable indeed that the States could not long have ſupported themſelves in ſuch circumſtances, had not Philip raſhly en­gaged in a war with England, with whoſe naval power he could ſcarce be enabled to cope by any ſuperiority in num­bers whatever. The defeat of the Spaniſh armada in 1588@@\* gave ſuch a blow to the power of that nation, as totally diſabled them from carrying on the war in the Netherlands; Inſtead of sending the proper assiſtance to the duke of Par­ma, that general received orders to hasten to the aid of the duke of Mayence, who had been defeated by Henry IV. The duke was obliged to comply with this order, though he was ſenſible the loſs of the United Provinces must be the conſequence. Prince Maurice now carried every thing before him ; and by the end of the year 1591, the Dutch ſaw their frontiers extended, the whole country ſecured by rivers and covered by fortified towns, with the greateſt pro­bability of driving the Spaniards out of Frieſland in another campaign.

The remainder of the hiſtory of this war is only a detail of the Spaniſh loſſes and misfortunes, which now enſued. Their affairs were at laſt totally ruined by a deciſive victory gained by prince Maurice, in the year 1600, over the arch­duke Albert, who had been appointed the Spaniſh gover­ned of the Netherlands. King Philip II. died in 1598, leaving the affairs of his kingdom in the moſt diſtreſſed situation; notwithſtanding which, his ſucceſſor Philip III. was too haughty to conſent to peace, or allow that the States were free, though he was plainly unable to keep

@@@[m]\* See England, n⁰ 312.