

occasions of joy or sorrow in a grandee's family, my Lord Ambassador is fain to send one with an *en hora buena* (if it be upon a marriage or birth of a child) or a *pesa me*, if it be upon the death of a child or so. And these ceremonies are so set, and the words of the compliment, that he hath been sent from my Lord when he hath done no more then send in word to the grandee that one was there from the Ambassador; and he knowing what was his errand, that hath been enough, and he hath never spoken with him. Nay, several grandees, having been to marry a daughter, have wrote letters to my Lord to give him notice and out of the greatness of his wisdom to desire his advice, though people he never saw; and then my Lord, he answers by commending the greatness of his discretion in making so good an alliance &c., so ends. He says that it is so far from dishonour to a man to give private revenge for an affront, that the contrary is a disgrace; they holding that he that receives an affront is not fit to appear in the sight of the world till he hath revenged himself; and therefore, that a gentleman there that receives an affront oftentimes never appears again in the world till he hath by some private way or other revenged himself; and that on this account, several have fallowed their enemy privately to the Indys, thence to Italy, thence to France and back again, watching for an opportunity to be revenged. He says my Lord was fain to keep a letter from the Duke of York to the Queen of Spain a great while in his hands before he could think fit to deliver it, till he had learnt whether the Queen would receive it, it being directed to his "Cosen." He says that many ladies in Spain, after they are found to be with child, do never stir out of their beds or chambers till they are brought to bed – so ceremonious they are in that point also. He tells of their wooing by serenades at the window, and that their friends do alway make the match; but yet that they have opportunities to meet at Masse at church, and there they make love. That the Court there hath no dancings, nor visits at night to see the King or Queene, but is always just like a Cloyster, nobody stirring in it. That my Lord Sandwich wears a beard now, turned up in the Spanish manner. But that which pleases me most ended, is that the peace which he hath made with Spain¹ is now printed here, and is acknowledged by all the merchants to be the best peace that ever England had with them; and it appears that the King thinks it so, for this is printed before the Ratification is gone over; whereas that

1. A commercial treaty which proved to be to the advantage of both nations.