**64. July 14, 1697.** *Letter of King William III of England to the Catholic Elector Prince of the Palatinate thanking him for his response to the intercession for the Mennonites in his territory, which the King originally made in 1694 (Document 56).*

Copy[[1]](#footnote-1)

William the Third, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France,[[2]](#footnote-2) and Ireland, Defender of the Faith.

To the most Illustrious Prince, Lord Johann Wilhelm, Count Palatine of the Rhine, etc., our dearly beloved friend and kinsman,

Greeting:

Most illustrious Prince, dearly beloved friend and kinsman, we could not refrain from bearing witness with this that the declaration made by your Electoral Highness to Lord Baron van Kintzky for the relief of the Protestant Mennonites on the 24th day of April last, in reply to our request, has been most agreeable and pleasant to us. We earnestly request, moreover, of your Electoral Highness that it may please him according to his authority, to direct that the above mentioned declaration may be fulfilled in each and every respect to the end especially that all the possessions, money, and lands which they may have lost may be restored to them and that there may be satisfaction for the creditors of the said Mennonites, which also would be most pleasing to us, and in turn we will allow no opportunity to pass on our part to show similar service to your Electoral Highness, whenever it may be in our power so to do.

With regard to the case of Count de Benthem as it concerns our Court, we shall issue orders to The Hague rather often that recommendations may come forward by which an end to the controversy may be set, which the nature of the matter and fairness require.

Further we commit your Electoral Highness with sincere affection of heart to the protection of the Almighty Deity.

Done in our camp at Cockleberg,[[3]](#footnote-3) the 14th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1697, and in the ninth of our own reign.

Your Electoral Highness’s

Good Brother and Kindred,

King William.

9 Blatwayl[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. **64** 1 This translation has been modified from one that appears in the *Mennonite Year Book and Almanac for the Year of Our Lord 1910*, pp. 22-23. Schijn gives a slightly shortened Dutch translation of this letter in *Geschiedenis* I, 341-343. Cf. Goebel, II, pp. 694-697. Brons gives a German translation of most of this document on page 213. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The King of England had also claimed to be the King of France since the time of Edward III (1327-1377) and the Hundred Years’ War. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See Document 56 n. 7. In the summer of 1697 William was in the army camp at Kockelsberg not far from Brussels in the war against the French. Stephen B. Baxter, *William III* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1966), p. 354. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The *Year Book* gives this as “7 Blatwijt.” Schijn reads “Q. Blatwayt.” William Blathwayt served William III as secretary-at-war. *William III and Louis XIV: Essays 1680-1720* by Mark A. Thomson (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1968), p. 78. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)