

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

WHereas Charles the Second, King of Spain, of most glorious memory, being not long since dead without issue, his sacred Imperial Majesty has claimed the succession in the kingdoms and provinces of the deceased king, as lawfully belonging to his august family; but the most Christian King, aiming at the same succession for his grandson the duke of Anjou, and pretending a right did accrue to him by a certain will of the deceased king, has usurped the possession of the entire inheritance, or Spanish monarchy, for the aforesaid duke of Anjou, and invaded by his arms the provinces of the Spanish Low Countries, and the duchy of Milan; has a fleet ready fitted in the port of Cadiz, has sent several ships of war to the Spanish West Indies; and by this and many other ways the kingdoms of France and Spain are so closely united and cemented, that they may seem henceforward not to be otherwise considered, than as one and the same kingdom: so that it sufficiently appears, unless timely care be taken, that his Imperial Majesty will be destitute of all hopes of ever receiving satisfaction in his pretension, the sacred Roman

Empire will lose its rights in the fiefs belonging to it in Italy and the Spanish Netherlands ; the free intercourse of navigation and commerce which the English and Dutch have in the Mediterranean, the Indies and other places, will be utterly destroyed ; and the United Provinces will be deprived of the security, which they enjoyed by the provinces of the Spanish Netherlands, lying between them and the French, which is commonly called a barrier. Lastly that the French and Spaniards, being thus united, will within a short time become so formidable to all, that they may easily assume to themselves the dominion over all Europe. And therefore, by this way of proceeding of the most Christian King, his Imperial Majesty was brought under a necessity of sending an army, for the preservation as well of his own private interests, as the fiefs of the Empire : the King of Great Britain has thought it requisite to send his forces to the assistance of the States General, whose affairs are in the same condition as if they were actually invaded ; and the said States, whose frontiers lie in a manner exposed on all sides, by the breaking and taking away of that fence, commonly called a barrier, which screened them from the neighbourhood of the French, are forced to do all those things for the safety and defence of their commonwealth, which they should and could do if they were in a war : and whereas so dubious a posture of their affairs is more dangerous than a war itself, and that France and Spain take advantage of this state of their affairs, to make a stronger and firmer union between themselves, for oppressing the liberty of Europe, and taking away the freedom of commerce. These reasons inducing his sacred Imperial Majesty, his sacred royal Majesty of Great Britain, and the High and Mighty Lords the States General of the United Provinces, to obviate so great evils as might arise from thence ; and desiring as much as lies in their power, to apply remedies thereto, have thought a strict conjunction and alliance between themselves, necessary for repelling the greatness of the common danger ; and to this end have agreed to the following articles of alliance.

I. There shall be and continue, between his sacred Imperial Majesty, his sacred royal Majesty of Great Britain, and the Lords the States General of the United Pro-

vinces, a constant, perpetual, and inviolable friendship and correspondence; and either party shall be obliged to promote the advantages of the other, and prevent all inconveniencies and damages that might happen to them, as far as lies in their power.

II. His sacred Imperial Majesty, his sacred royal Majesty of Great Britain, and the States General, desiring nothing more earnestly than the peace and general quiet of all Europe, have adjudged that nothing can be more effectual for the establishment thereof, than the procuring an equitable and reasonable satisfaction to his Imperial Majesty, for his pretension to the Spanish succession; and that the King of Great Britain, and the States General, may obtain a particular and sufficient security for their kingdoms, provinces and dominions, and for the navigation and commerce of their subjects.

III. The confederates therefore shall, in the first place, use their utmost endeavours to obtain by amicable means, and a solid and firm agreement, an equitable and reasonable satisfaction for his Imperial Majesty, on account of the aforesaid succession, and the security beforementioned to his royal Majesty of Great Britain, and the Lords the States General of the United Provinces; and the confederates shall, to that purpose employ two months time with all earnestness, and without intermission, to be reckoned from the day that the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged.

IV. But if, contrary to their expectations and wishes, matters cannot be transacted in the manner aforesaid, within the time limited, the confederates do engage and promise to one another, that they will assist each other with all their forces according to a specification to be agreed upon in a peculiar convention to that purpose, so that they may attain the satisfaction and security beforementioned.

V. The confederates, in order to the procuring the satisfaction and security aforesaid, shall, amongst other things, use their utmost endeavours to recover the provinces of the Spanish Low Countries, that they may be a fence and rampart, commonly called a barrier, separating and distancing France from the United Provinces, for the security of the States General, as they have served in all times un-

til of late, that the most Christian King has seized them by his forces; as likewise the duchy of Milan, with its dependencies, as a fief of the empire, and contributing to the security of his Imperial Majesty's hereditary countries; besides the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, and the lands and islands upon the coasts of Tuscany, in the Mediterranean, that belong to the Spanish dominions, and may serve to the same purpose; and will also be of advantage to the navigation and commerce of the subjects of the King of Great Britain, and of the United Provinces.

VI. It shall be lawful for his royal Majesty of Great Britain, and the Lords the States General, by common advice, and for the benefit and enlargement of the navigation and commerce of their subjects, to seize by their forces what lands and cities they can, belonging to the Spanish dominions in the Indies; and whatsoever they shall so take, shall be their own.

VII. In case the confederates, necessity requiring it, shall be forced to enter into a war, for obtaining the satisfaction aforesaid for his Imperial Majesty, and the security of his Majesty of Great Britain and the States General, they shall faithfully communicate their designs to one another, as well in relation to the actions of the war, as all other things where the common cause is concerned.

VIII. It shall not be permitted to either party, when the war is once begun, to treat of peace with the enemy, unless jointly, and with the common advices of the other parties; and no peace shall be made, unless an equitable and reasonable satisfaction for his Imperial Majesty, and the particular security of the kingdoms, provinces, dominions, navigation and commerce, for his Majesty of Great Britain and the States General, be first obtained; and unless care be taken by fitting security, that the kingdoms of France and Spain shall never come and be united under the same government; nor that one and the same person shall be king of both kingdoms; and particularly that the French shall never get into the possession of the Spanish Indies, neither shall they be permitted to sail thither on the account of traffick, directly or indirectly, on any pretence whatsoever: and lastly, unless full liberty be granted unto the subjects of the King of Great Britain and the States Ge-

neral, to exercise and enjoy all the same privileges, rights, immunities and franchises, of commerce by sea and land, in Spain, the Mediterranean, and all lands and places which the King of Spain last deceased did possess at the time of his death, as well in Europe as elsewhere, which they used and enjoyed, or which the subjects of both, or either of them, by any right acquired by treaties, agreements, customs, or any other way whatsoever, might have used and enjoyed before the death of the late King of Spain.

IX. At the same time that the said agreement or peace shall be made, the confederates shall agree amongst themselves, about all the things that they shall think necessary for maintaining the navigation and commerce of the subjects of his majesty of Great Britain and the States General, in the lands and dominions they may acquire, and that were possessed by the late deceased King of Spain, and also in what manner the States General may be secured by the aforesaid fence or barrier.

X. And because controversies may arise on account of religion, in the places which the confederates, as it is hoped, may acquire by their arms, they shall agree among themselves, concerning the exercise of it at the same time, as is mentioned in the foregoing article.

XI. The confederates shall be obliged to assist and succour one another, with all their forces, against any aggressor, if the Most Christian King, or any one else, shall think fit to invade any one of the confederates, on the account of this alliance.

XII. But if an agreement can now be made, concerning the satisfaction and security so often mentioned, or if after a war entered into by necessity, peace shall be again restored, there shall after such an agreement, or peace concluded, be, and always continue between the contracting parties, a defensive alliance for the maintenance of the said agreement or peace.

XIII. All kings, princes and states, that please to have a concern for the general peace, shall be admitted into the society of this alliance; but because it is the peculiar interest of the sacred Roman empire, that the publick quiet should be preserved, and the recovery of the fiefs of the empire, being among other things the subject now in hand,

the said empire shall in a special manner be invited into the society of this alliance. It shall moreover be lawful for the confederates, jointly, or any of them separately, to desire whomsoever they shall think fit to be an accessory to this alliance.

XIV. This treaty shall be ratified by all the confederates within the space of six weeks, or sooner, if it may be done.

At the Hague, the 7th Day of September, 1701.
(L. S.) *MARLBOROUGH.*