

Oppression by the force of our Armes, or by a reasonable accommodation, to which we shall be always ready to hearken. Thus leaving the rest to be delivered to you by our said Ambassador, we pray God to have you in his holy protection and keeping, most Dear, Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates.

Your good Friend, Allye, and Confederate,
L O U I S.

The French Kings Letter to the Queen of Spain.

Most High, Illustrious, and Mighty Princels, our most Dear and Loving Sister. The sincere inclination we have alwayes had, for the procuring and maintenance of peace, which was sufficiently testified to the World, by the Treaties of *Westphalia*, and *Perinze*, induced us about the close of the year 1665, by an obliging prevention, (though it was not so taken at *Madrid*) to find out some way of providing, that nothing might be able to alter the good understanding and Amity between us and your Majesty, and our Crowns, which was so happily established by our august Marriage. This was the late Queen our Mothers intention, when she desired the Marquis *De Fuentes* to write to your Majesty in her name, that having sufficiently informed her self of the Right of the Queen our dearest Wife, to severall Estates in the Netherlands, and finding the Grounds to be solid, just, and undeniable, she earnestly conjured your Majesty, by the tender affection you bare to her, that she would also inform her self of these Rights, and to take a particular cognizance thereof, to the end, that viewing the justice of them, as she her self had done, the Equity thereof might induce her to doe us Reason by a good Accommodation, which might take away all occasions of misunderstanding between our Monarchies; That she sufficiently knew of our intentions so as to be able to answer for us, that we should be very moderate in the conditions of the said Accommodation; and that finding her self drawing towards her end, next to her Salvation, she desired nothing more in the world, nor with so much Zeal, as the satisfaction of having a Union and an Amity firmly settled between our two Houses, which this Difference might soon disturb. All these particulars cannot but be remembered by your Majesty, and the Counsels of *Spain* cannot also forget the Quality of the Answers which they obliged your Majesty to make, so little conformable to the Piety and Utility of the Queen Mothers instances, and so contrary without doubt to the inclination your Majesty hath for the conservation of the publique Peace.

This answer was that your Majesty could not in any manner upon any consideration whatsoever enter into the discussion of this affair, nor agree or treat upon those rights which she knew had no foundation: and presently after your Majesty sent order to the Governour of *Flanders* to cause the Oath of fidelity to be administered to all the Estates and people of the Country, which till then had been neglected since the decease of the late King our Father-in-Law. This absolute Refusal of doing us Justice, and this last Resolution of binding those People by Oath to your Majesty, which are truly our Subjects, in right of the Queen our Wife, having reduced us to the unpleasant and indispensable Necessity, either to be wanting in that which we owe to our Honor, to our Self, to the Queen, and to the Dauphin our Son; or to endeavour by the force of our Arms to obtain that Reason which hath been denied us: We have chosen the latter, as that which both Justice and Honor obliges us to, and by an Express Courier which we dispatch to the Archbishop of *Ambrun* our Ambassador, we order him to let your Majesty know the Resolution which we have taken to march in person, towards the end of this Month, at the head of our Army, to endeavor to put our selves into possession of that which belongs to us in the Low Countries, in right of the Queen, or of something Equivalent; and at the same time to present to your Majesty, a writing which we have ordered to be composed, containing the Grounds of our Right, and plainly destroying the frivolous Objections of those contrary writings, which the Governour of *Flanders* has published to the World.

In the mean time we promise our selves so much from your Equity, that as soon as you shall have seen and examined the said Writings, you will much blame the Counsel that was given you, to deny us that Justice which you will

find so clear and well founded, and willingly embrace the waies that we have insinuated to you, and do still offer you to decide the differences between us by a friendly accommodation; assuring your Majesty, in encouragement to it, of two things: One, that we shall be content with very moderate Conditions, regard being had to the quality and importance of our Rights; the other, that if the success of our Arms be as prosperous as their cause is just, we have no intention to thrust them forwards beyond that which belongs to us, or something equivalent to it wheresoever we can light on it. And as to all the rest of the Estate of our dearest and most beloved Brother the King of *Spain*, the chief foundation supposed, that we receive that Justice which is due to us, we shall be always ready to defend them against all Aggressors, for the conservation of them to him and his posterity, which we wish may be numerous and without end: as also very religiously to observe the peace, as we assured the Marquis *de la Fuentes*, when he took his leave of us: nor thinking that the Peace is broken by us, by our entering into the Low-Countries, though with the Sword in our hand, since we march only to put our selves in possession of that which is usurped upon us; Thus referring you farther to our Ambassador, we pray God to preserve you, Most high, &c.

Plymouth, May 10. Yesterday arrived in *Plymouth Sound*, the *Adventure* Frigate, bringing in a Frenchman of *St Maloes*, bound for *New-found-land*, being a Fishing Vessel of about 200 Tuns, 80 Men, and 25 Guns.

West-Coves, May 11. Here is lately arrived the *Return* of *London*, a rich Vessel, from *Serat* in *East-India*; in her way homewards, about the Latitude of 45 Degrees, she was lustily encountered by a Dutch Men of War, but so well defended her self, that the *Hollander* was forced with some damage to leave the attempt.

Lyme, May 11. Even now we discover to the Westwards of this place, about 40 sail of Ships, which we suppose to be the *Streights Fleet*; and the rather believe it, because of four Ships which we perceive are making in directly for this Harbor, which is the number we expect from *Malaga* under that convoy.

Plymouth, May 12. Yesterday morning passed by this Port Rear Admiral *Kempthorne* with the *Streights Fleet*, being about 60 sail of Men of War and Merchant men, besides six which went away for *Bristol*, two that put into *Falmouth*, and six others, whereof five of this Town, and one bound for *Topsam*. In their return home, they seized on a *Holland Doger* laden with *Rye*, and bound for *Portugall*, which they brought away with them.

Tarmouth, May the 13th. This day is come into this road Captain *Tracy*, bringing in with him Three Vessels, one a *Caper* of 2 Guns, the other Two were Vessels retaken by him, whereof one belonging to *Boston*, laden with *Tobacco-pipe Clay*, and *Fullers-Earth*.

Lyme, May 13. Our four expected Vessels which returned with the *Streights Fleet*, came in here on Saturday last, they highly commend the care and conduct of Vice-Admiral *Kempthorne*, by which not any Vessel under his Convoy miscarried, except only one *Portugais* from *Lisbon*, bound for *London*, which by a gust of Wind having lost their Masts, the Master and the Seamen fairly forsook her. One of these Vessels having touched at *Tangier*, inform us of the thriving condition of that place, wherein very many Prizes of good value have been taken and brought in, and the Mole advances much. We have also an account of the good posture of affairs in the Islands of *Guernsey* and *Jersey*, and that 4, or 5 Prizes have been lately taken by their Privateers.

Portsmouth, May 14. On Sunday last in the afternoon came in here the *Streights Fleet*, of between 60 and 70 sail, having dropt several others of them by the way, which went off for the Ports, to which they were bound.

The *Pembroke* Frigate had the misfortune off of *Portland* in the night, to fall foul with the *Fairfax*, and is sunk, but the Men all saved, except six or seven sick persons, which were not able to shift for themselves.

On Friday last came in from *Crusing*, a *Ketch* sent out by Sir *Robert Holmes*, bringing in with him a prize, being a small Frenchman laden with *Figs* and *Honey*.