When Charlemagne's Empe. in ye. W. ended, ye. Countries of lower Germany chang'd ye. title of their first Magistrate, but did not alter their fundamental Principles; for they from ye. earliest time had been great partizans for liberty, & had never submitted to any thing except what they thought for their own good. They appointed a supreme Magis. who was to be in time of peace at ye. Head of their councils, & in war to command their Armies, but ye. making & altering of laws, & every thing yt. related to money affairs, was to be settl'd by ye. Gen. Assembly of ye. States, which consisted of ye. Nobility Clergy, & Cities.

These Provinces were 17. & anciently each of them had a Sovereign but by degrees all fell to ye. H. of Burgundy, but they were all united under Charles V. whose father Mac. I. of ye. H. of Austria married Mary ye. only Daughter of Charles, ye. Hardy.

His son Philip II. was highly displeas'd with ye. Inhabitants of ye. Low Countries, because when his Father resign'd his dominions up to him they had beg'd he would let them, instead of Foreign troops, Garrison their own fortresses, & yt. he would give ye. offices of trust to ye. natives. Philip has by some people been esteem'd an excellent Politician but they must except his conduct in these countries, for here he was ye. very reverse. Having by his treatment wean'd ye. affections of ye. People from himself, by his usage drove ye. P. of Orange to join them: the Gover-s. who were sent there acted so severely, yt. ye. People took up arms, & ye. P. of Orange headed them, this was ye. foundation of ye. Liberty yt. now resides in those Countries, & of ye. Honour of this P. successor.

This Wil. P. of Nassau, P. of Orange was ye. 1st. of ye. name; he had been well educated, he was page to Charles V. of whom he was so great a favourite yt. tho' a boy, He entrusted him with ye. greatest secrets of State, & when 22. prefer'd him to all his experienc'd Gen-s, & gave him ye. command when his affairs were in a critical situation; but what is more extraordinary, He was not unworthy of this confidence. He had a great fortune which he liv'd magnificently at ye. Court where he had been, & greatly protected. He was both a magnanimous & a Wise P. He never left his P. till forc'd by yt. Snares yt. were laid for his life. All ye. Low Countries look'd upon, as ye. only person able to protect them, He therefore sacrific'd his own dominion to defend them; the ye. Arch D. Mathias, & afterwards a P. of France was call'd to their assistance, yet He was not angry at it, being ready to do any yt. would save his Country from destruction. He affairs were quite desperate. He took ye. command, & got ye. Provinces of Gelderland, Holland, Zeeland, Friseland, & Utrect, to associate in 1579. which was ye. foundation of ye. Pro[illegible]

One of ye greatest difficulties ye P. of Orange experienced from ye beginning of ye Civil War, was how to get them to submit to such as were ye only means of bringing things to a happy conclusion. He felt this still stronger when ye D. of Alencon made a perfidious attempt on Antwerp, ye Dutch then hated ye French, as much as ye Spaniards at ye Assembly at Dort. He at length perswaded them not to shew their resentment for ye joining ye French was ye only method of destroying ye Spaniards.

ye making ye P. of Orange C-t of Holland, & ye giving him all ye Prerogatives annex'd to it was propos'd, but ye States would not hear of it; ye Enemies of ye H. pretend yt this was an instance of his boundless ambition, tho' others say yt this is a groundless calumny; ye States sent to ye D. of Alencon yt an accomodation might be made with France, whilst this was settling ye D. died in 1584.

His News was brought to ye P. of Orange by one who pretended to be a Pro, & call'd him Francis Guyon; ye P. had entrusted this man in affairs of great consequence, in which he had acted very honestly, as ye P. was at Delft going to sign a Passport for him, he shot a Pistol with three bullets at ye P. who died without ever speaking; ye assassin was re-ex-ping, but being seiz'd said yt he would ye same thing if could be done again. His name was Balt. Gerhard of Burgundy a furious Papist. He tho' dreadfully tormented never own'd who were ye contrivers of ye fact, tho' by some his suppos'd ye Spaniards were at ye bottom of it; others think ye Dutch; certainly ye Spaniards & ye High Republicans were glad of his death, & ye Lower people among ye Dutch all in Tears.

ye States Gen. instantly declar'd themselves ye Sovereigns of ye united Prov. & then with great Pomp buried ye P. Count Maurice one of his Sons was made Gov. of Holland & Zeeland, & ye Nephew of ye P. of Orange, was made Stadtholder of Friesland. ye many places yt ye D. of Parma took, made ye States run see what they had lost in their P. they would have yielded to any Govern. except to their old one, they demanded ye assistance of ye French but yt could not get it, they then demanded it of Queen Elizabeth who for reasons of state rejected it, but allow'd ye E. of Leicester Her chief favourite, to go & command in ye room of ye late P. of Orange. ye Dutch gave him all ye power in hopes of pleasing yt Queen, but on ye cont. she disliked it, He made but a poor figure as an Officer ye D. of Parma getting ye advantage his whole campaign of 1586. & return'd to England. P. Maurice was appointed Lieut. Gen. & his Bro. C-t Hohenloe Lieut. ye E. of Leicester came to them ye next year again & if possible shew'd himself a worse Officer than he had before; they upon this complain'd to ye Queen of him who recall'd him, & sent Ld. Willoughby to command Her troops. P. Maurice who succeeded his Father's Dignities got ye command of ye Dutch troops, & shew'd himself an excellent Officer.

'Tis thought yt ye Divisions which have subsisted in yt Commonwealth, & which some think not yet extinguished, arose at yt time.

xxx ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ antiently part of ye Low Countries belongd to Gaul & ye other part to Germany; ye former was conquer'd by Julius Cæsar, but ye Hollanders & Zealanders, were rather allies, than vasals of ye Romans.

in 500. ye Franks who inhabited Gaul overrun these provs.

~~Other were divided into 4 parts. ye Govr. of them in process of time thro' ye weakness of ye Emprs. became independent, the other 3 were united by ye D. Burgundy, ye Heiress of this married Maximilian ye 1st of Austria~~

ye Civil War having lasted 40 years, to ye ruin of ye States Gen. & of those dominions y^t remain'd to ye H. of Austria, therefore ye wisest People on both sides wish'd for a Peace; P. Maurice did not like ye thoughts of it, knowing y^t it would lessen his Power, Henry IV. of France, till ye Pensionary Barnevelt assur'd him y^t they were not in a situation to carry it on longer, was averse to it; but after y^t much encourag'd it, a truce was upon y^t made in 1609. for 12. years by which ye Reps. was to remain free & in full possession of its conquests.

ye Disputes between P. Maurice & ye Pen. Barnevelt grew to a very great Height. At this time also ye great Religious disputes arose in which part of ye Nation were call'd Arminians, & ye other Gomarists. ye Pen. was of ye former opinion, but would have stiff'd it by a publick Edict, if P. & his party, who were of ye latter had not prevented him & represented ye Arminians as secret favourers of ye Spaniards; & by having ye Army at his command he chang'd ye Magis-trates of Cities by his own command, & got ye conducting of ye States Gen.

P. Philip of Orange being dead in 1618 without Children, ye Stadtholder Credit & fortune was encreas'd by it; He therefore had ye Pen. & some others arrested; tho' Barnevelt was ye only one y^t suffer'd, for being tried by Judges, who acted by Commission from ye States Gen. He was condemn'd & executed ye next day; these Judges had no Legal Right to act ye States of Holland being his own Ly Judges, but this only set ye People more against ye P. ye War broke out in 1621. in which he was unsuccessful; this broke his heart; & he died in 1625.

P. Henry Frederick William I. ~~[illegible]~~ Younger son succeeded his Bro. in his titles & Possessions, & unexpectedly proov'd to be a very great man. By his conduct in ye war he shew'd he was an excellent Officer as well lucky in his enterprizes.

In 1631. ye States, to convince him of ye trust they repos'd in him gave him a Gold Box in which was ye survivance of all his places for his son, who was then but 5 years old. He continued beating ye Enemies of ye States.

His son P. William in 1641. married Mary ye Daughter of Charles I. of England, & because of his Marriage got ye Prov. of Friesland added to his Shares. Frederick died in 1647. & with equal good fortune had fought during ye time he ~~[illegible]~~ commanded ye Army.

ye year after ye States made peace contrary to ye Endeavours of France & ye P. of Orange; but ye remains of Barnevelt's party were jealous of ye French & of ye P. & therefore wanted to disband ye troops, to lessen his power; he said ~~[illegible]~~ y^t as ye French & Spain carried on ye war, y^t if they parted with their troops one or other of them would take advantage of their defenceless condition. What he had said was not lik'd in ye Prov. he was therefore advis'd to go & this it them, ye City of Amsterdam petition'd against his coming there upon this he had M^r. de Wit Burgomaster of Dort & 5 Members of ye States Gen. to be sent to Louvestein, & order'd a body of troops to go to Amsterdam; ye People hearing of it laid all ye neighbouring country under water, it was afterward compromis'd, & de Wit &c. were delivered

out of Prison, but ye whole party got ye name of Lowestein; these disputes would most likely have broken out again, if ye P. had not died of ye Small Pox; some time after his death, his Widow was brought to bed of a son in 1650.

We will now for short time lay aside our Hist. & examine in what state ye Govern. Commerce & Strength of ye Rep. were at yt time.

In ye beginning of this Hist. we said how ye Govern. had been in ye earlest times, which continued much ye same when they came to ye K. of Spain, for he had no right to any other title but E. of Holland, or of Flanders. When Philip II. left those Prov. he appointed ye P. of Orange Gov. of 4 of them, which in Flemish is call'd Stadtholder & ye States had ye Power which was vested in them by ye Constitution. When they threw off ye dependance of Spain, it was disputed whether they should chuse another E. ye P. of Orange's friends were for this, but many thought off ye Archd. Mathias, ye D. of Alencon, ye French K. or Queen Elizabeth, but at length ye States resolv'd to keep ye Sovty in themselves. Tho' they gave ye E. of Leicester ye title of Stadtholder, yet it was only ye name.

When ye treaty was concluded in 1579. at Utrecht, ye States Gen. assembl'd, which consisted of all ye States of ye Prov-s; they therefore settl'd yt deputies from each shou'd meet at ye Hague, who in reality only represent ye States Gen. yet great points of Sovty remains in ye States of Each Prov. for they make war & Peace, Coin money & raise taxes in their seperate Dominions, so yt they are in some measure independent Rep-s. tho' it at first sight appears to be a Democracy, but in reality is an aristocracy.

ye Destruction of Antwerp, ye trouble in Germany & France, & ye many religious Persecutions in other parts of Europe, are ye true cause of trade's flourishing in Holland, new manufactures were encourag'd, & ye fishing trade daily encreas'd; this gave these countries ye appearance of Plenty in a short time; before Philip II. got Portugal, they us'd to trade there, but he put an end to yt which forc'd ye Dutch, to trade on their own bottom with ye E. Indies, which being ably manag'd, prov'd a great advantage & this encourag'd them to trade with ye W. Indies, where they had ye same good success, by ye assistance of Henry IV. of France traded with ye Turks; yt they became powerful at Sea.

ye State of affairs at yt time was greatly to ye advantage of this new Rep. for ye Great Power of Spain made all Europe, either openly or secretly attack it, they also got able Sailors from England till they could Navigate their own ships; in short while not thought of they grew too powerful to be easily overturned.

ye fund of ye E. India company encreas'd amazingly in a few years, for ye original fund was about 10000 L. & in six years their Capital was 600000 Sterling.

ye W^est India trade was not so flourishing; & they lost ye Brazils which they might have kept if they would have trusted P. Maurice of Nassau! Tho' they are at present not so powerful in ye W. Indies as they were, yet they have so profitable Islands, & ye settlement of Surinam on ye Coast of S. America; they have also still some places in Africa.

If we consider how their Trade encreas'd, & ye reputation ye rest of ye Powers of Europe; we shall not be surpriz'd y^t they soon had ye greatest Fleet in Europe; & at ye same time if we examine how afterwards all ye other Powers employ'd themselves in enlarging their Commerce we shall not be surpriz'd y^t this is alter'd.

What also push'd them to seek for something new was y^t ye soil was so bad in Holland & W. Friesland, y^t ye people could not submit: also ye mildness of their Govern. brought many to live there out of those prov-s. which yet remain'd to Spain, which weaken'd ye Enemy.

When William II. P. of Orange died ye States Gen. took ye executive as well as legislative power into their own hands, which till then had been in ye Stadtholder, so fearful were they of falling into ye Power of any one Man. ye Louwestein party procur'd an perpetual edict by which ye Stadtholdership was abolish'd & ye troops disbanded; & by degrees all ye Posts were fill'd with their own Party & all excluded who were connected with ye H. of Orange; this occasion'd Discontent & animosities.

ye Dutch being at y^t time in ye Zenith of their Glory, declar'd war against England, which at y^t time was Govern'd by Cromwell, but were very unsuccessful. a second war was declar'd in which none but ye Louwesteins had an command in this they were prosperous: but it made ye Party be hated for tho' John de Witt who was at ye head of affairs was very good yet his Bro. Cornelius was very bad, which made ye better sort of People envy him, & ye Populace jealous.

Lewis XIV. was so powerful, y^t they were forc'd to court him but by not doing this constantly, He invaded them in 1672. which made ye people murder ye two de Witts, overturn ye Louwestein System by making William III. P. of Orange Stadtholder & by cancelling ye Perpetual Edict.

This P. conduct during ye whole war gave him a character not inferior to y^e of his Grandfather, & extricated his Country from ye greatest difficulties. When he was made K. of England he resign'd Stadtholder, which would have devolv'd after his death to his Child if he had had any. his constant adverse by degrees lessen'd his power, tho' outwardly it appear'd to be as great as ever.

When K. William died ye Louvestein faction again got ye Govern. into their own hands, & had learnt by their ill fortune to be more prudent, & Moderate. It was these people yt were ye true cause of ye D. of Marlborough's finding so much obstruction from ye field Dep. of ye States, fearing least they should loose ye Govern. if a battle was lost, or ye troops at too great a distance, but towards ye end of ye war things went on better, & more particularly when ye P. of Orange & Nassau was drown'd in his passage over ye Moredyke, going to ye Hague to settle his dispute with ye K. of Prussia, with regard to K. William's succession, ye former being heir by will, & ye latter by descent. ye Louvesteins upon this, took care to dispose of all offices, yt their adversaries might never have an opportunity of regaining ye Govern. They look'd on every man as a publick enemy, yt attempted to get preferment any way, but thro' them; & were resolv'd to keep ye Rep. in peace, forseeing yt to be ye only method of keep off, ye appointing a Stadtholder, which would be their destruction, at any hour. ye troops were neglected, & ye Naval force was much weaken'd, so yt it was soon publickly said how ye Country was going to ruin; yet men were not wanting, who wish'd to see their country again flourish.

In 1722. ye P. of Orange was by ye States of Gueldersland appointed their Stadtholder, much against ye Will of ye Hollanders, & particularly of ye Louvesteins who fear'd other Provs. might follow their example; but in ye same time they shew'd great complaisance for France to ye detriment of ye Interests of Europe.

When they were force'd to take a part in ye last war, their behaviour was so extraordinary, yt they both displeas'd ye Allies & ye French, ye former not knowing how to depend on them, & ye latter at a loss how to deal with them. ye French wanted ye Dutch to sign a neutrality, which ye Louvesteins wish'd but did not dare propose; upon which ye French removed ye seat of War out of Germany into ye Low Countries; at length they even attack'd ye Dominions of ye Dutch, when ye Dutch troops were much disabl'd.

In 1747. ye P. of Orange, was by ye Populace, declar'd Stadtholder tho' many men of rank were of this party, yet they chose to be quiet till it was entirely concluded. ye Populace were so boisterous yt even ye P. was forc'd to restrain them.

He was very dangerously ill soon after, which much obstructed ye operations of ye War. ye People were sorry to find yt ye same inactivity continued, which had reign'd there for so many years; upon this ye lower People resolv'd to destroy ye Farms; these Farmers were justly punish'd for their luxury & Profusion.

ye Magistrates in some Cities were for performing what they had promised ye People, but many did not like yt ye Farms & Farmers should be abolish'd, which at once produc'd great Revenues, & a numerous Militia; they upon this pretended yt it was of great importance to ye Govern. & yt ye P. was of ye same opinion. Who came & shew'd ye same Spirit as his Ancestors, & yt he would, as they had, protect Liberty, & ye antient constitution of ye Rep.

When he went to Aix la Chapelle he had a scheme for ye revival of trade laid before ye States Gen. thinking they would more freely deliberate in his absence; ye City of Amsterdam on his return thank'd him for it & he bound ye Hollanders closely to him by it.

He dies in 1751. of a fever. His son an infant, was declar'd Stadtholder & his Mother Gov-ss. Gen.

ye Dutch must by this time see how necessary a Stadtholder is to protect them from ye factions which are gen-ly brewing in yt Country.

Peace is undoubtedly very necessary for ye Dutch, as being a Country yt entirely depends on its commerce, yet yt may be bought too dear. It was ye Ballance of Power yt constituted yt Rep. which will end, whenever any great Power gets ye upper hand; therefore they ought to be particularly careful to keep ye Ballance equal between ye H-s. of Bourbon & Austria; they ought also live well well with ye German P-s. especially with ye Kg. of Prussia, on account of his great dominions, & of his being one of ye joint Heirs of K. William III.

ye Dutch ought to keep ye independency between ye N. ern. Powers.

As her subjects trade much with Italy, she ought to try to keep all ye Pow. yt part of ye world on an equal foot; she should live well with ye Turks, yt she may keep those excellent troops she has in her pay.

Yet ye Interest of ye Dutch & of G. Britain to live well together, they have both been sufferers, whenever they have quarrel'd; & it is in their power so to regulate ye trade of their Subjects, yt they may not clash.

Of the rise and progress of the United Provinces.

The Northern Nations under many different names having by several attacks destroyed the whole frame of the Roman Empire, either produced or made way for the several Kingdoms and principalities that have since continued in the parts of Europe on this side of the Rhine, which made the antient limits of the Gallick and German Nations.

What we usually call the Low Countries, was so wasted by the invasions or marches of this raging people; that the inhabitants grew thin, and these rather pursueing hunting or violence, the grounds became uncultivated; an in the course of years turned either to forest, or marshes.

Flanders was of the first kind, and was given to one of the chief followers or commanders of the Franks with the title of Forester of Flanders. This office continued for several descents, an began to civilize the country, by repressing the violence of the Robbers, who infested the woody and fast places, and by encouraging the milder people to fall into civil societies, to trust to their industry for subsistence, to laws for protection, and when assembled by their governors, to their arms for safety and defence.

Some writers give the erection of Flanders into a County to Charlemaign, others to Charles the Bald, which changed the title of Forester into that of Count without interrupting the succession.

The

The first extent of this County, or of the jurisdiction of the Foresters is not clear.

Holland being an Island formed by the dividing branches of the antient Rhine, and called formerly Batavia, was esteemed rather a part of Germany than Gaul, from its being planted by the Catti, a powerful and antient people of Germany, and rather treated as an allied than subjected province by the Romans, who drew from thence no other Tribute than bands of Soldiers much esteemed for their valour, as auxiliaries in their wars with the Gauls, Germans, and Britons.

The Normans and Danes are supposed to have made many changes in this Island; but in 980. the Emperor Lewis II. instituted a Son of the Count of Frize by his daughter Count of Holland, and gave rise to that title, which having run through many direct or collateral successions and some usurpations, ended at last in Philip II. King of Spain by the defection of the United Provinces.

Under these first Foresters and Counts many demolished Castles were rebuilt, and many new ones erected, and given by the Princes to their attendants, with large circuits of land for their support, and seigneurial

jurisdiction

jurisdiction over the inhabitants; and this on several easy conditions, but chiefly of attendance on their Prince at the necessary times of either honouring him in peace, or serving him in war. Perhaps some of those seigneuries were the remains of some old principalities in those countries among the Gallick and German nations, whose institutions were lost in the long period that preceded the Roman discoveries or conquest, and might be derived from the first paternal dominions, or concurrence of loose people into orderly neighbourhoods, with a deference, if not subjection, to the wisest or bravest among them.

Under the same Counts were either founded or restored many cities and towns; of which the old had their antient freedoms and jurisdictions confirmed, or others annexed; and the new obtained similar privileges.

Another constitution which entered deep into their government may be derived from the northern nations, who wherever they passed, and seated their colonies and dominions, left an establishment called in most European languages, the States, consisting of Nobles, Ecclesiasticks, and the People, under the limited principality of one person, with the style of King, Prince, Duke, or Count.

This constitution of the States had been established from time immemorial in

the

the Low Countries, and was assembled for determining disputes about succession of their Princes where doubtful or contested; for deciding those between the great towns; for raising a milice in times of war; for giving advice in time of dangers abroad, or discontents at home; but always on the accession of a Prince, and on laying new impositions on the people.

The revenues of these Princes consisted of ancient demesnes; small customs, that considerably encreased by the trade of the maritime towns; and the voluntary contributions of their subjects.

The forces of these Counts were composed of such nobles, as by their governments or other offices, or by the tenure of their lands, were obliged to attend their Prince on horseback, with certain numbers of men in his wars; or else a milice, called les gens d'ordonnance, who served on foot, which style was renewed in Flanders in 1667 upon the war with France, when Count Egmont was made by the governor, General des gens d'ordonnance; this infantry was defrayed by the cities or countries, as the cavalry was by the nobles.

The government lasted in the form and manner described, though in several principalities, till Philip of Burgundy, in whom the whole seventeen Provinces came to be united.

The

The extent of this populous country, and the increase of Trade at Bruges, Ghent, and Antwerp, enabled Philip, and his Son Charles the Hardy, to defend themselves against France, then much weakened by Wars with England, and factions of its Princes; and the House of Burgundy, under Charles and Maximilian of Austria, and afterwards under Charles V. their Grandson, was almost constantly engaged in Wars with France.

Philip of Burgundy who began them was a good Prince, he took such wise measures, that on the dissentions in England reducing its influence abroad, he ended his disputes with France, by a safe and honourable peace; which enabled him not to lay greater burthens on his subjects; but Charles the Hardy having rashly engaged against France and the Swiss, asked larger supplies of his subjects, which obtaining and employing in an unfortunate War, his people became discontented, and he disregarded, till he ended an unhappy life by an untimely death in the Battle of Nancy.

Maximilian brought German troops into Flanders for their defence against France, and Charles V. a greater force of Spaniards and Italians on the like occasion, his greatness and fame; either diverted or suppressed any discontents of his subjects, on the increase of

their

their payments, or the foreign troops among them; besides he was of a generous and gentle nature, and born in the Low Countries.

Philip II. on his father's retiring from the world took possession of the Seventeen Provinces in a peaceable and loyal condition; he after a war with France checkered with good and ill fortune restored all Europe to peace by that of Cambray; after which he returned to Spain, leaving the Low Countries under a subordinate government, which till the time of Charles V. had been the constant seat of its Princes, and equally shared the presence of that Emperor with his other dominions.

This added to the pride and reservedness of his carriage, and his employing none but Spaniards in his Court and Councils, gave just uneasiness to these Provinces.

He appointed his natural Sister the Dutchess of Parma Governess of the Low Countries, and Granvell as her adviser, with directions to continue the foreign troops, and demand of the States supplies for supporting them; to establish fourteen Catholick Bishops in addition to the three antient in those Provinces, to renew the edicts against Luther, and make way for an Inquisition; the attempting to effect these instructions made the first disturbances in the Low Countries;

which

which obliged Philip to consent to the removal of the foreign troops; but he succeeded in the erection of the new Bishops.

The Low Countries were filled with Protestants, that quitted England, on account of the persecutions instituted by Queen Mary, France, on the breaking out of the Wars of Religion, and Germany, for the same reason. They soon spread their doctrines, and gave ample employment to the new erected Inquisition.

Upon angry debates in Council, chiefly owing to the unbounded power of Granvelle a Burgundian of mean birth, advanced to the Stat of Cardinal, more from his abilities than moral character, the chiefs of the Nobles, among whom were the Prince of Orange, the Counts of Egmont and Horn, the Marquess of Berghen and Montigny, refused their attendance in Council, and petitioned Philip to remove the Cardinal. At length by the advice of the Duchess of Parma, the King consented that Granvelle should not attend, on which they returned to Council, and Count Egmont personally laying the grievances of the Provinces before Philip, the rigour of the Edicts about Religion, and the Inquisition was remitted.

In 1565. The King disclaimed the interpretation that had been given to his letters by Count Egmont, and declared all heretics

heretiks should without exception be put to death, and that the Civil power should assist the Inquisition.

The putting these cruel orders into execution only encreased the resolution of the sufferers, and raised compassion in the beholders, which terminated in a desire of revenge against the authors of that counsel, particularly the Duke of Alva.

In 1566. the citizens in many Towns prevented the executions, which was followed by a confederacy among the Nobles never to suffer the Inquisition in the Low Countries, and Brederode at the head of two hundred Gentlemen came to Brussels and demanded the abolition of the Inquisition, and religious edicts of the Governess. She promised to represent their desires in the most favourable light to the King; either the slowness of Philip's nature, or the dilatoriness of the Spanish Court, so long delayed these concessions, that the meaner people through many great towns of Flanders, Holland and Utrecht destroyed the Images and riches of the Churches, and instituted consistories and Magistrates in each town among those of the reformed profession; but the nobility and chief citizens from an abhorrence of tumults, and encouraged by the arrival of the King's concessions

began

began with vigour and loyalty to withstand these tumults, which added to the news of King Philip's intended journey to the Low Countries, and the prudence and moderation of the Dutchess, soon restored the Provinces to their former tranquility.

Philip upon this did not come into Flanders, but sent the Duke of Alva at the head of ten thousand Spanish and Italian troops in 1567. which was against the advice of the Governess, upon which the trading people began to retire, and the Duke seizing the Counts Egmont and Horn, she resigned her employment, which was given to Alva, whose cruelty brought the two Counts to the block, and the Prince of Orange not appearing to the charge exhibited against him, his estate was confiscated; many Princes of Germany furnishing him with troops, he invaded Brabant, and received succours from the Protestants of France, but by the conduct of Alva was obliged to retire into Germany, the Governor erected at Antwerp, a Statue representing himself treading and insulting upon two smaller statues representing the two Estates of the Low Countries, which greatly encreased the indignation of the Flemings; added to which his demand of a general tax of the hundredth part of every man's estate to be raised at once, and for the future the twentieth of all immoveables and the tenth of all that was sold; the States reluctantly

reluctantly consented to the first, but refused the other two; on the Duke's persisting they sent a petition to Spain, at last Alva caused the edict to be published at Brussels without the consent of the States; the people refused to pay, all shops were shut up, and the Country people came not market, so that neither bread nor meat could be bought in the Town.

Alva upon this called the Soldiers to arms, and ordered several of the Inhabitants who had refused the payments, to be hanged, as these cruel orders were going to be executed news arrived that the Gueuses or Protestants had taken the Briel, and that a revolt was expected in the Province of Holland.

Indeed most of the Towns of Holland Zealand, and Westfriezland drove out the Spanish garrisons, renounced their obedience to King Philip, and swore fidelity to the Prince of Orange; upon which the Prince returned out of Germany with new forces and marched within five leagues of Brussels, seizing Mechlin, and many other Towns, which would have soon ended the Spanish dominion in the Low Countries had not the massacre of the Protestants at Paris intervened, which damped the Prince of Orange and encouraged the Duke of Alva.

But the war soon raged more violently and

the

the Hollanders, by the roughness of their nature, which was encreased by their sufferings opened the Sluices and drowned their own Country to hurt the Spaniards.

The King at length saw the danger and recalled Alva, and the war was carried on by Requisenes, who dying suddenly and without any provision or successor, the government devolved on the Great Council, untill the arrival of Don John of Austria, appointed Governor; but this gave time for the rage of the people to encrease, and the chief persons of the Provinces agreed with the Prince of Orange in 1576. to the act called the pacification of Ghent, the chief articles of which were, the expulsion of all foreign soldiers out of the Provinces; the restoring all the ancient forms of government; the referring matters of Religion in each Province to the provincial Estates; and that for performance thereof the rest of the Provinces should forever be confederate with Holland and Zeeland.

On the arrival of Don John the Estates refused to admit him without his confirming the pacification of Ghent; but either hurt at having neither force nor dependence, or desirous of fame by a war, on the passage of Queen Margaret of Navarre from France to Spaw, he seized the Castle of Namur, on which the Provinces called the Prince of Orange to Brussels, and the States made him Protector of Brabant.

Another party was formed in the Low Countries

Countries, by those who were equally averse to the Spaniards, yet not inclined to shake off the allegiance to their Prince, nor change the established Religion; the Duke of Parma who succeeded Don John, made use of the Duke of Arreschot who headed this party, as a means of gaining strength and reputation, and of reducing a great part of the provinces to the subjection of Spain.

The more northern provinces sent Deputies to Utrecht in 1579. who framed the alliance ever after called the Union of Utrecht, which was the foundation of the commonwealth now known by the name of the United Provinces.

By it the Seven Provinces unite as if they were one province, though reserving to each province and town its privileges, and laws; in adjudging whereof, or differences that may arise between any of the provinces the rest shall not intermeddle farther, than to intercede towards an agreement.

They oblige themselves mutually to assist in repulsing any attempt to restore the Sovereignty, or the Catholick Religion.

The frontiertowns to be supported at the expence of the Union.

all inhabitants to bear arms from the age of 18 to 60.

Peace and War not to be made without the consent of all the Provinces.

This

This Act was signed by the deputies of Guelderland, Zutphen, Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, and the Ommlands of Frize in January 1579. but not by the Prince of Orange till May, and then with this signification, that the superiority and authority of Archduke Mathias was not lessened by it; whom the States and rest of the Low Countries not entered into this Commonwealth had offered the Country to, as a middle measure between returning to the obedience of Spain, and the popular government which was moulding in the Northern Provinces; but Mathias arriving without the advice or support of his Brother the Emperor, and having the Prince of Orange given to him as his Lieutenant General, was only a Cypher, and his government soon ended.

The Duke of Alançon Brother to Henry III. of France was called by the States of the Low Countries as his successor; but on his fruitless attempt to be absolute Master of the City of Antwerp, he left the Country.

The Prince of Orange was soon after assassinated at Delft, his Son Maurice though but sixteen was placed in his stead.

Queen Elizabeth did not avowedly support this State, but secretly with money and voluntary troops;

The valour and conduct of the Duke of Parma added to the discipline of his troops, though succeeding Don John in the command with a footing only in the two smallest Provinces, recovered most of the important

Towns

Towns in Flanders, and at last reduced the affairs of the Union to so great distress, that they sent Deputies in 1585. to offer Elizabeth the Sovereignty of their Country, which she refused but agreed to lend them money and troops on the security of the Briel, Flushing and Ramekins; and though disputes arose with her General the Earl of Leicester whom the States had sworen to obey as their Governor, which made her recall him, she assisted the United Provinces during her whole Reign.

The Prince of Orange was by the consent of the Union chosen their their Governor. what gave them most breath, was Elizabeth's wars with Spain in the Indies, and the expeditions of Lisbon and Cadiz, the declining state of the League in France, for whose support Philip II. was so eager that he twice directed the Duke of Parma to ~~quit~~ his successes in the Low Countries, and march into France which encreased the reputation of that able General, but hurt the Spanish affairs in Flanders.

The succession of Henry IV. to the Crown of France greatly hurt Philip's design.

With the Duke of Parma died all the discipline and successes of the Spaniards in Flanders

Philip broke by age and infirmities having made a Peace with England, and desired it with France, empowered Arch-duke Albert whom he styled Governor and Prince

of

of the Low Countries to make an accommodation with those revolted Subjects.

The Arch Duke treated with the States General at the Hague as with free Provinces, his Commissioners were Spinola, the President of the Council and the two Secretaries of State and War in Flanders.

In Holland all the steps of this treaty were taken with great deliberation, and doubts were started on all occasions; but there were two considerations that affected the treaty, the one arising from the decline of the Spanish Monarchy by the vast designs and unfortunate events of so many ambitious counsels; and the the Success of the Crown of France under Henry IV. made the Dutch think that an attack on Flanders might be attempted by that active people.

The other was occasioned by the credit and power of Prince Maurice, who was Governor or Stadtholder of four provinces, and two of his Cousins of the other three, which made several of the States headed by Barnevelt Pensioner of Holland become jealous of him.

After much debate a truce was concluded in 1609. for twelve years, whereof the most essential points were the treating them as free Provinces, and that each party should enjoy what they possessed at the time of the treaty, that no new fortifications should be erected, and the free commerce restored as before the Revolt.

On the negociations with Spain first appeared a division of sentiments in the United Provinces, which has ever since appeared ~~the same party continuing~~ the one party was head by the Prince of Orange; the other by Barnevelt, which was called Arminian, because chiefly composed of persons of that Religion; the former valued themselves on the purity of their reformed religion and aversion to Spain; the latter on their attachment to liberty.

¶ Towards the end of 1609. the Duke of Juliers and Cleves died without male heir his daughters equally pretended to them; the Dukes of Brandenburgh and Neuburgh seized such parts of the possessions as they could first invade; Brandenburgh sought the assistance of the United Provinces, and Neuburgh of Archduke Albert; the Dutch surprised the town of Juliers, under pretence of only keeping it until the parties were agreed; the Arch duke in the name of Neuburgh demanded the restitution of Juliers, which being with great art evaded, he sent Spinola, who seised Wesel which the Duke of Brandenburgh claimed as belonging to the Dutchy of Cleves, but the citizens held it as an Imperial Town, and protected by the Dutch; the Courts of England and France mediated an agreement by which neither party should draw their forces into any part of these Dutchies.

Of their Government.

The United Provinces cannot with propriety be styled a Common Wealth but a confederacy of seven Sovereign provinces, united for their mutual defence, without any dependence on each other.

Each province is composed of several little States or Cities not subject to the Sovereignty of their province, not concluded in many things by the majority, but by the universal concurrence of the Provincial States.

The States General cannot make Peace, War, any new Alliance, or levy money without the consent of every Province, nor can the States Provincial conclude any of these without the consent of each City that has voice in that Assembly.

In Civil Causes an appeal lies from the Common Judicature of the Cities to the provincial Courts of Justice; but none in Criminal Causes; nor can the Sovereignty of a Province exercise any judicature, seize any offender, or pardon any offence within the Juris diction of a City, or execute any common resolution of Law, but by the Justice and Officers of the City itself.

Each City can also levy money and make Peace and War, but the Coining of money is a lone in the generality of the Union.

This State is therefore composed of free Cities, Sovereign Provinces, the agreements or constitutions of the Union, and the Authority of the Prince of Orange, which shall be more fully explained by examining the Province of Holland which is the richest and strongest of any of them.

The Sovereign authority of the City of Amsterdam consists in the decrees of its Senate, which is composed of thirty six Members, who administer justice according to antient forms, in the names of Officers, and places of judicature; but money is levied by arbitrary resolutions and proportions, agreable to what the emergency of affairs seems to point out.

The Senators are for their lives, antiently the richer burghers met on the death of a Senator and elected a successor by the majority of voices; but as the Town encreased these meetings proved tumultuous, whereupon the Burghers in a general Assembly devolved the election of Senators on the standing Senate, which was soon followed by every other Town of the Province, which has made the Government Aristocratical, and not Democratical, as is immagined by most strangers.

This Senate chuses the Chief Magistrates of the Town, which are the Burgomasters and Eschevins, of the first there are four at Amsterdam, three of them are chosen every year, and one remains two years, the three last chosen are called the Reigning Burgomasters for the year, and after the first three months preside by turns, which time the Burgomaster of the former year presides, that the new ones may learn the duties of their office and the state of the Affairs of the City. They represent the Dignity of the Government, dispose of all

under Officers, and issue the money out of the Treasury they judge the safety or dignity of the City requires. They keep the Key of the Bank at Amsterdam, which is never opened but in the presence of one of them, the direct all the public works of the City.

The Office of Burgomaster is not lucrative but leads to those that are so; but it puts them to no expence, for on all public occasions they are attended by men payed for that purpose by the Town, and all feasts are defrayed out of the common treasure.

The Eschevins are the Court of Justice in every Town, at Amsterdam there are nine, of which seven are elected annually, and two of the preceding year continue in Office; a double number are chosen by the Senate out of which the Prince of Orange as Stadtholder nominates the Seven.

They are Sovereign Judges in all criminal causes. In Civil after a certain Sum an Appeal lies to the Court of Justice of the Province; but they pass sentence of death on no man without first advising with the Burgomasters, but are not obliged to follow their opinion.

The chief Subordinate Officers are the Treasurers, who receive and issue all the Revenues of the City; the Scout whose authority answers to our Sheriff in a County; the Pensioner is a Civil Lawyer versed in the Customs, records, and priviledges of the Town, he is a Servant of the Senate

delivers their Messages, makes their harangues, and is not unlike our Recorders.

The Revenues of Amsterdam arise from the constant Excise on all commodities bought and sold within its precincts, the rents of houses belonging to the common to the City, certain duties on every house for Charitable uses, the repairs, ornaments or fortifications of the place, and extraordinary Levies consented to by the Senate for furnishing part of the public charge, agreed to by the Deputies in the Provincial States for the use of the Province, or by the Deputies of the States of Holland in the States General for Support of the Union. All the payments are made into one common stock; these Revenues are said to amount to 1. 600,000 £ a year.

The Senate chuses the Deputies sent by this City to the States of Holland, whose sovereignty is represented by Deputies of the Nobles and Towns composing nineteen voices, of which the Nobles have only the first, and the Cities eighteen, according to the number of those which are called Stemms, the other Cities and Towns of the Province having no voice in the States.

These Cities were originally but six, Dort, Haerlem, Delft, Leyden, Amsterdam, and Tergou; but Prince William of Hessen added Rotterdam, Gorcum, Schedam, Schonover, Briel, Alemaer, Horne, Enchuysen, Edam, Monincksdam, Medenbrik and Purmerem, which makes in all eighteen.

The Council of State disposes of all sums destined for extraordinary affairs, and expedites the orders for the whole expence of the State agreable to the previous Resolutions of the States General; these orders must be signed by three deputies of several Provinces, and the Treasurer general, and be registered in the Chamber of Accounts before the Receiver General makes the payment.

Every Province raises its share of the general Charges in its own method and sends it to the Receiver General.

The Chamber of Accounts examines and states all Accounts and controals the Order of the Council of State in the disposal of the finances, it is composed of two Deputies from each Province who are changed every three years.

The Council of the Admiralty have the absolute disposition of the Marine affairs, it is subdivided into five colleges, one at Amsterdam, another at Rotterdam, the third at Hoorn, the fourth at Middleburgh in Zealand, and the fifth at Harlingen in Friezland. each of these has seven deputies four of the Province where the College is held and three named by the other Provinces. the Admiral or in his absence the Vice Admiral presides when present.

The Authority of the Princes of Orange began at the birth of the State, not so much from Prince William of Nassau's being Governor of Holland and Zealand as from the opinion of his wisdom, goodness and courage, his power and rights as Governor of the Provinces were

were carefully reserved; but those that remained in the Sovereign were devolved on the Assembly of the States General, so that they made peace and War, foreign Alliances, and raised and coined money. what the Prince commanded the Land and Sea forces as Captain-General and Admiral, ~~and disposed of the Offices~~ pardoned the penalty of crimes ~~chose the Magistrates of the Towns~~ of the Towns the Towns presented to him three persons out of which he chose the Magistrate. and as the States-General represent the Sovereignty, the Prince of Orange the Dignity of this Republic, by public Guards, and the Attendance of all Military Officers.

The constitutions of Guelderland, Zealand and Utrecht agree much with those of Holland. In Guelderland the Nobles that have certain fees or Lordships in the Province have indeed Session in the Assembly of the States, and compose the half, the Towns the other half, and any Noble of this Province may have place in the States, provided he attends at his own Charge; in Zealand the nobility was extinguished in the Spanish Wars, the Prince of Orange possessing the Marquisates of Flushing and Tenwere alone represents that part of the States and creates the Magistrates of those two Towns. in Utrecht besides Deputies of the Nobles and Towns, eight delegates of the Clergy have Session.

Friezland is governed by four Members which are called the quarters of Ostergo consisting of eleven Balliages, of Westergo consisting of

of Nine; of Sevenwolden consisting of ten; and of the eleven Towns of the Province, each member sends ~~four~~ Deputies to the States, two from the Bailliage and Two from each Town.

In Groningen the elections of Deputies are made as in Friesland, but in Oberyssel all Noblesse possessing Seigneurial lands make part of the States.